

THE FANTASTIC FOUR®



MARVEL MASTERWORKS®
BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

MARVEL

MARVEL MASTERWORKS
PRESENTS

THE Fantastic FOUR

VOLUME 9

COLLECTING

THE FANTASTIC FOUR Nos. 82-93

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MARVEL MASTERWORKS

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INTRODUCTION

BY STAN LEE

I can't help myself! I've got to say it! I've got to confess!

Every time I read these early Fantastic Four classics, I'm amazed at how great they are!

I totally forget that the brilliant Jack Kirby and I had anything to do with them. I just read each incredible tale like any fan, like any guy who's discovering them for the first time. Of course, in a sense I *am* just discovering them because I have such a terrible memory that, after all these years, they seem brand new to me.

You see, the reason I'm so keyed up is that I just finished reading all twelve of the thrillers in this book and I can't get over them. In fact, when I finish telling you of all the wonderment on the pages ahead, you'll figure I should be even more excited than I am.

For starters, these incredible yarns feature some of Marvel's all-time greatest characters. The very first tale, "The Mark of--Madman!" brings back the unforgettable Inhumans in all their powerful and colorful glory. You'll encounter the mad Maximus, most dangerously evil of all the strange breed as he unleashes his deadly Alpha Primitives at the start of his campaign to destroy the FF so they won't challenge his plan to conquer Earth!

Next, in "Shall Man Survive?" you'll learn why even today's movies, loaded with special effects, have a tough time bringing you battles as thrilling and dazzling as the ol' FF! But, before you have a chance to even catch your breath, you'll once again meet the most famous, most fantastic, most feared super-villain in all of comicdom—the diabolical Dr. Doom! And, as if that isn't enough, our astonishing tale also features Nick Fury and his Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. who convince our heroes to invade the deadly kingdom of the Lord of Latveria!

Not only will you finally realize just how powerful Doom really is, but alone and seemingly helpless in the most dangerous kingdom on Earth, the FF must face Doom's murderous robot army while their own powers are almost gone!

But don't lose any sleep over the fate of Reed and his titanic team, because in one of the greatest battles ever fought in a comic book, with Dr. Doom at the height of his power, the FF finally regain their own powers—and you won't believe the spectacular combat scenes that "King" Kirby created just for you!

Naturally, as in the case of all Marvel's greatest tales, the battle between Doom and the FF concludes in the most unexpected, most dramatic way you could ever imagine. It's an ending only the House of Ideas could have come up with!

Here's a quiz for you. Do you remember the first super-villain the Fantastic Four ever fought? If you guessed that master of the macabre, the malevolent Mole Man, go to the head of the class. Well, he's got the most horrible plan of all this time—he's determined to make the whole human race blind—starting with the Fantastic Four! And it looks as though no one can stop him from accomplishing his demonic deed!

And, talk about getting more than your money's worth! Not only does our next tale continue the

terrible threat of the vision-challenged ubervillain, but Jack and I generously decided to add the super evil, super powerful, super merciless Skrulls to the mix! So, even while our heroes have their hands full battling the Mole Man and his unstoppable Subterraneans, the Slave Ships of the Skrull are landing on Earth for just one reason—and wait'll you see how that reason affects the ever-lovin', blue-eyed Thing!

In fact, there's so much going on that I didn't even get around to telling you about the unbelievable underground house that Sue decides our titanic team should move into. Why? Hey, you've gotta read the story to find out. But, those of you who are faithful Marvel readers—and I guess that includes most of the human race, will suspect that there's a lot more to this strange-looking abode than you first imagined!

Oh, in case I forgot to tell you, the Skrulls capture the Thing and whisk him to their home planet. No, not because he had saved a lot of airline flying miles, but because they've prepared a really nasty fate for our orange-skinned buddy.

And that leads us to "The Thing--Enslaved!" You don't often see the most powerful human on Earth helpless and powerless at the mercy of his enemies, so prepare yourself for surprise after surprise in this one. Of course, when anybody tries to enslave the Thing—even if the enslavers are the powerful Skrulls—they're gonna end up with a lot more trouble on their hands than they expected!

At this point I have a hunch that you're way ahead of me. You've probably already guessed that Reed will figure out who captured Ben and he'll also devise a means of zooming to the Skrull planet with Sue and Johnny. After all, nobody captures a member of the Fantastic Four without having to reckon with the other three, no matter who the captors are or where they may have fled to!

And I mustn't forget to mention that there's just one other little complication. If the FF fail, the Skrulls have arranged that Planet Earth itself will be totally destroyed. Nothing like adding a little pressure to an already tight situation, right?

Well, I don't want the suspense to torture you much longer. If you'll take the trouble to look around, you'll notice that good ol' Planet Earth is still here, so you can stop worrying about the fate of the human race. But, regarding the fate of the Fantastic Four who are all alone on the planet of the Skrulls—well, that might be something else again. You can feel free to worry about *them*, if you'd like.

I wish there were enough room here for me to tell you about all the exciting twists and turns in every one of the stories, but I just have to mention this one thing. When you go from page to page, panel to panel, and you see the spectacular illustrations that were magnificently drawn by the truly great Jack Kirby, you'll feel you've gotten more than your money's worth already. As for the stories themselves, hey, that's just another little Marvel bonus for all you True Believers!

Y'know, nobody buys a book just to read the introduction! Even though it was a real hoot visiting with ya, it's time for you to turn the page now, Bunky, and get to the really good stuff!

EXCELSIOR!



2005

FANTASTIC
FOUR

12¢
IND.

82
JAN



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

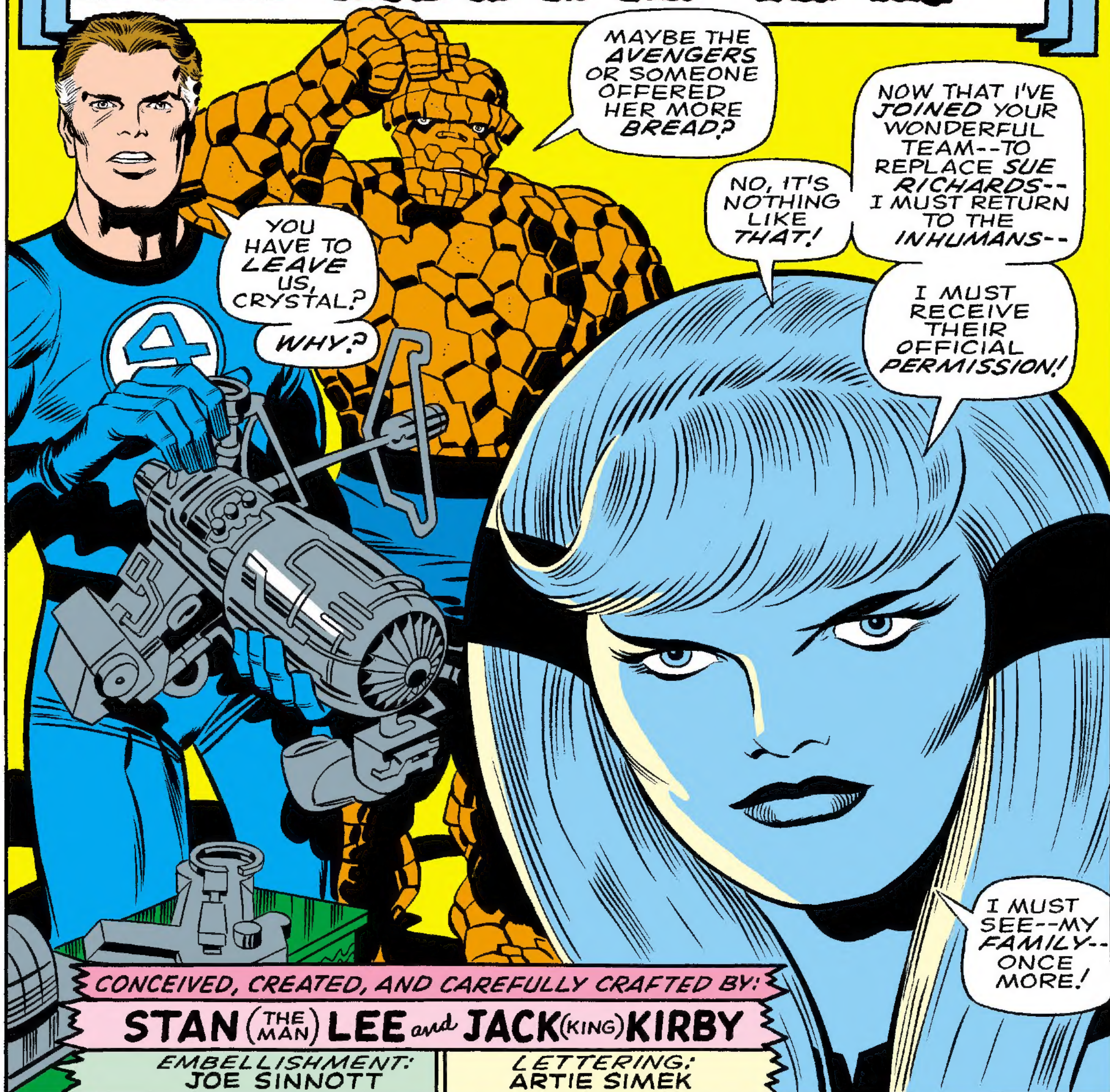
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

Fantastic FOUR



THE FABULOUS F.F. ENCOUNTER THE INHUMANS ONCE MORE!

"THE MARK OF... THE MADMAN!"



MAYBE THE
AVENGERS
OR SOMEONE
OFFERED
HER MORE
BREAD?

YOU
HAVE TO
LEAVE
US,
CRYSTAL?

WHY?

NO, IT'S
NOTHING
LIKE
THAT!

NOW THAT I'VE
JOINED YOUR
WONDERFUL
TEAM--TO
REPLACE SUE
RICHARDS--
I MUST RETURN
TO THE
INHUMANS--

I MUST
RECEIVE
THEIR
OFFICIAL
PERMISSION!

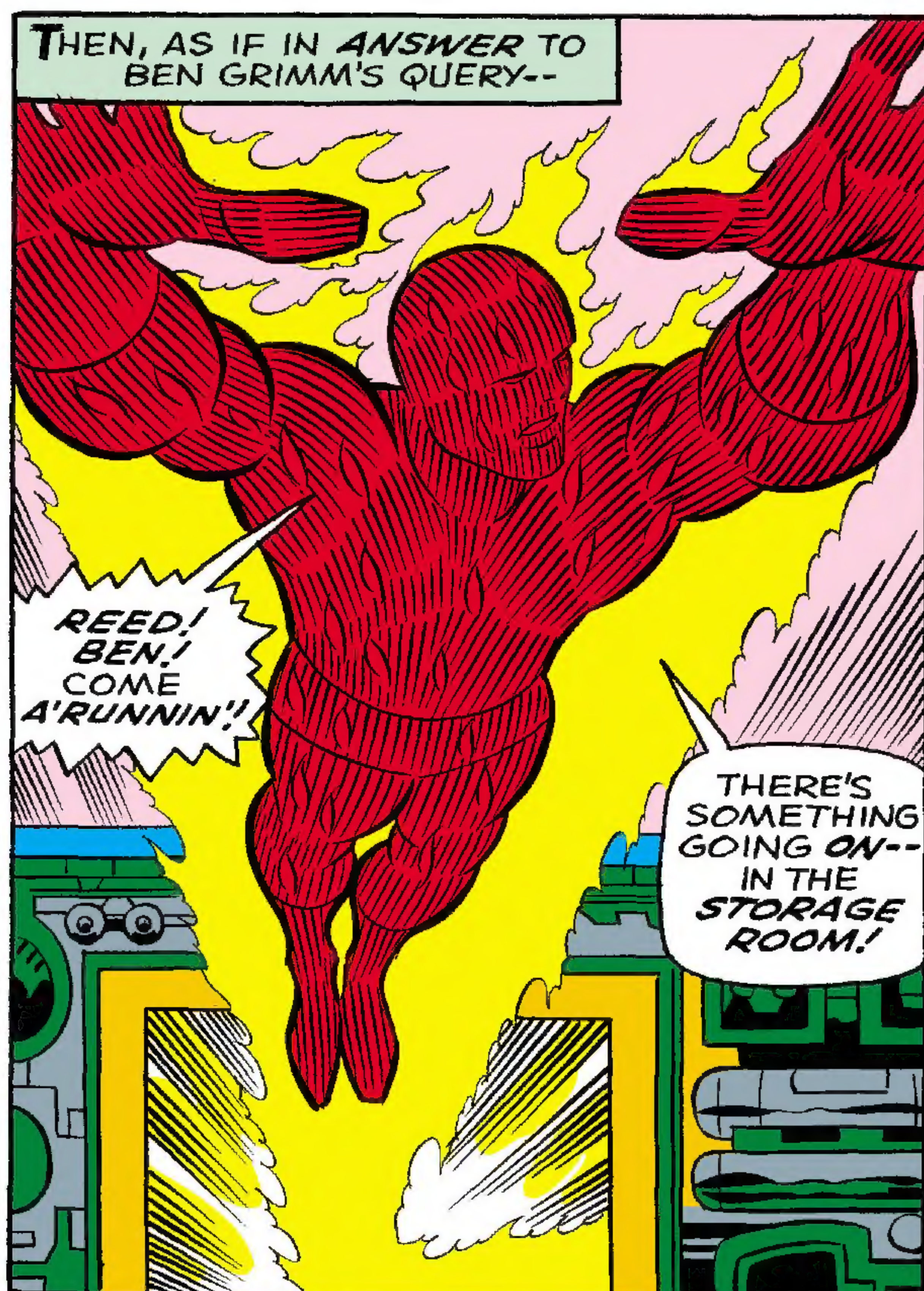
I MUST
SEE--MY
FAMILY--
ONCE
MORE!

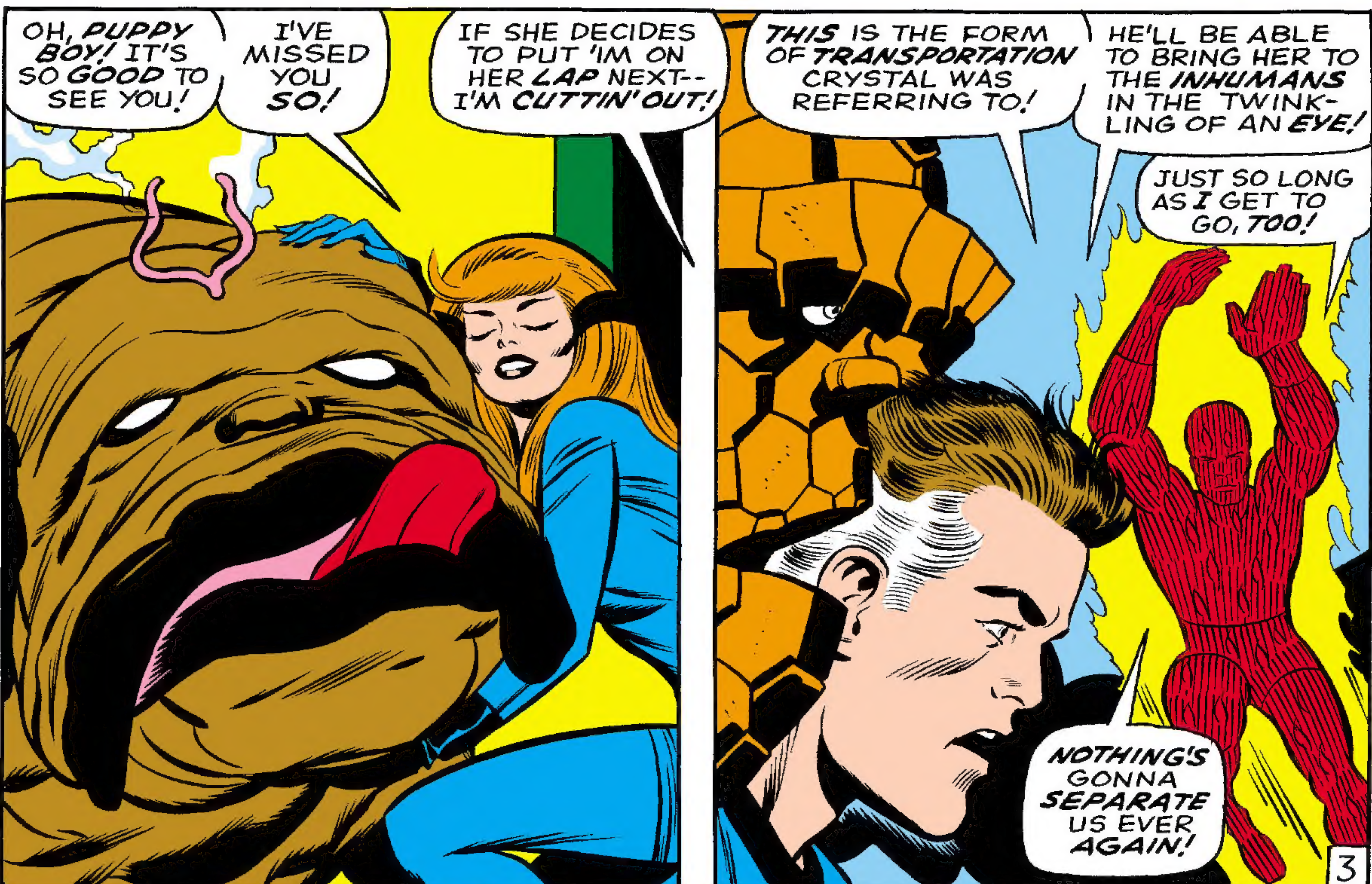
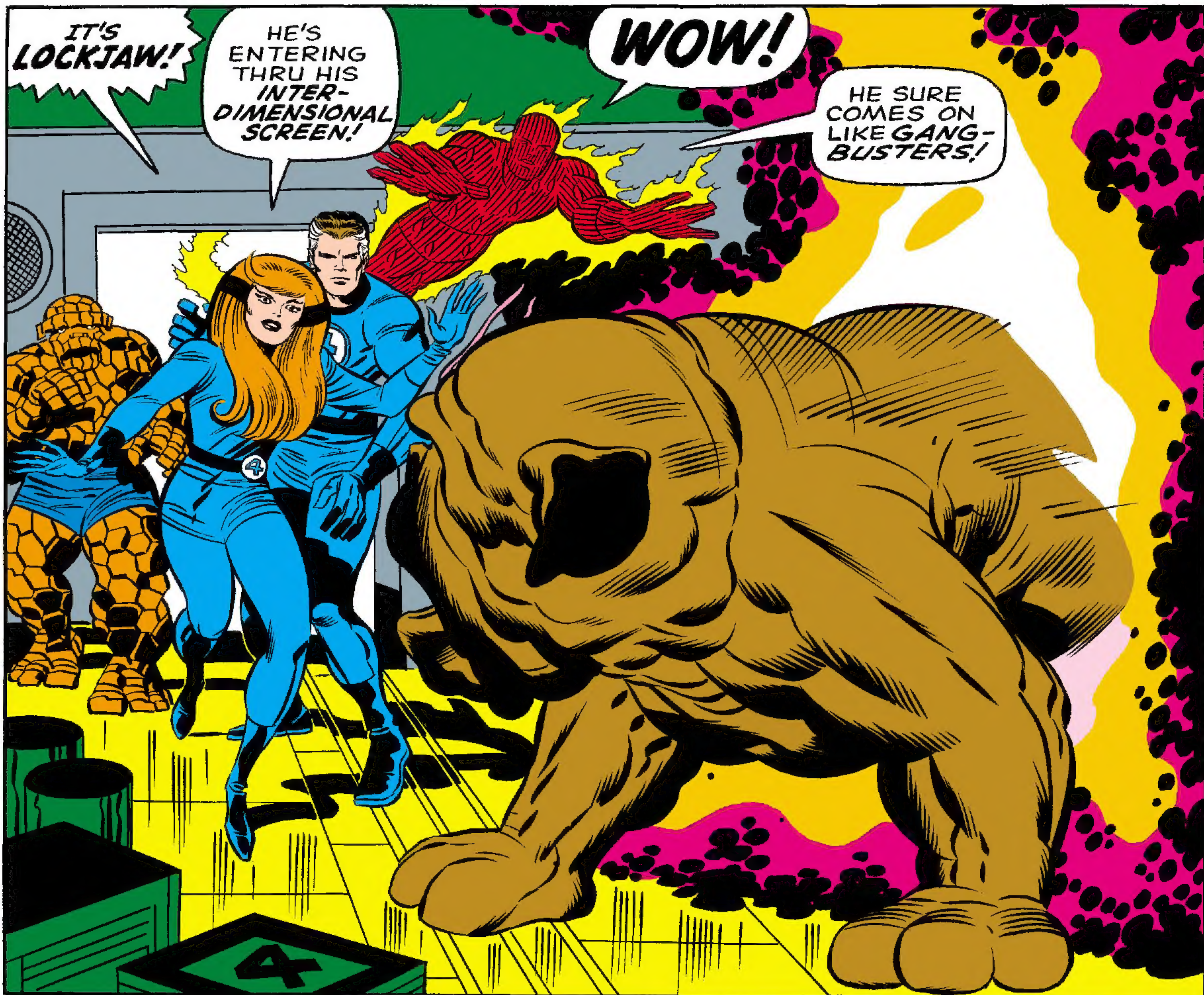
CONCEIVED, CREATED, AND CAREFULLY CRAFTED BY:

STAN (THE MAN) LEE and JACK (KING) KIRBY

EMBELLISHMENT:
JOE SINNOTT

LETTERING:
ARTIE SIMEK





BUT ALAS, WE FEAR THAT JOHNNY'S
DRAMATIC *PREDICTION* MAY BE SOME-
WHAT LESS THAN TOTALLY ACCURATE!
FOR, A SPLIT-SECOND LATER--

WAIT!
SOMEONE
ELSE IS
COMING
THRU THE
SCREEN!

THE WAY
LOCKJAW
IS
SNARLING--
TREMBLING--

WHOEVER
THEY *ARE--*
THEY
REPRESENT--
DANGER!

THEY'RE
GETTIN'
CLEAR
NOW!

I CAN
ALMOST
RECOGNIZE
'EM--!

THEY'RE **ALPHA
PRIMITIVES--**
THE INHUMANS'
DEADLY
DRONE RACE!

THEY'RE
TRYING
TO
ABDUCT
ME!

DON'T *FIGHT*
THEM! IT'S
HOPELESS!
THEY CAN'T
BE *BEATEN!*

DON'T *FIGHT*
THEM? WE CAN'T STAND
BY--AND SEE YOU
WRESTED FROM
US!

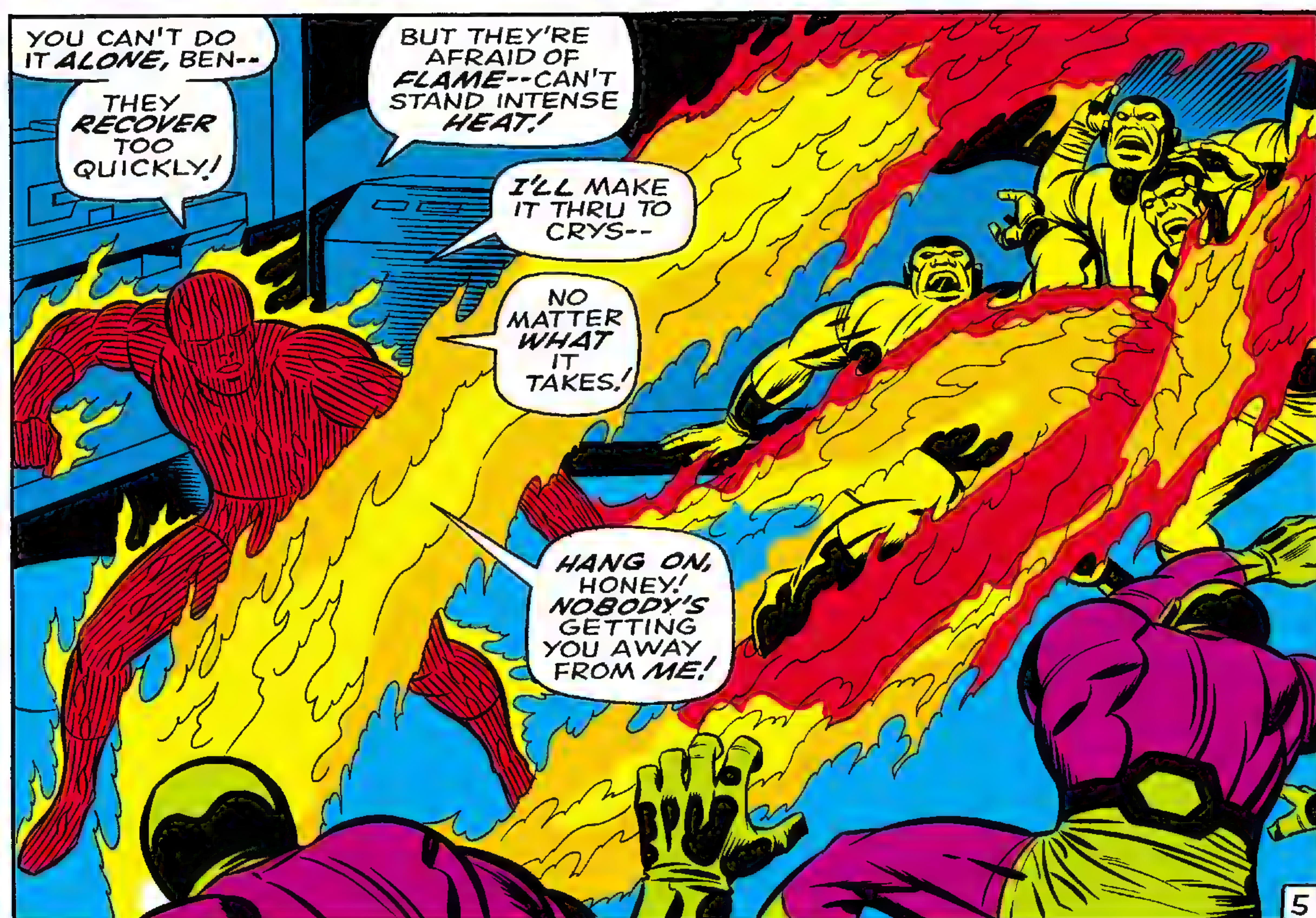
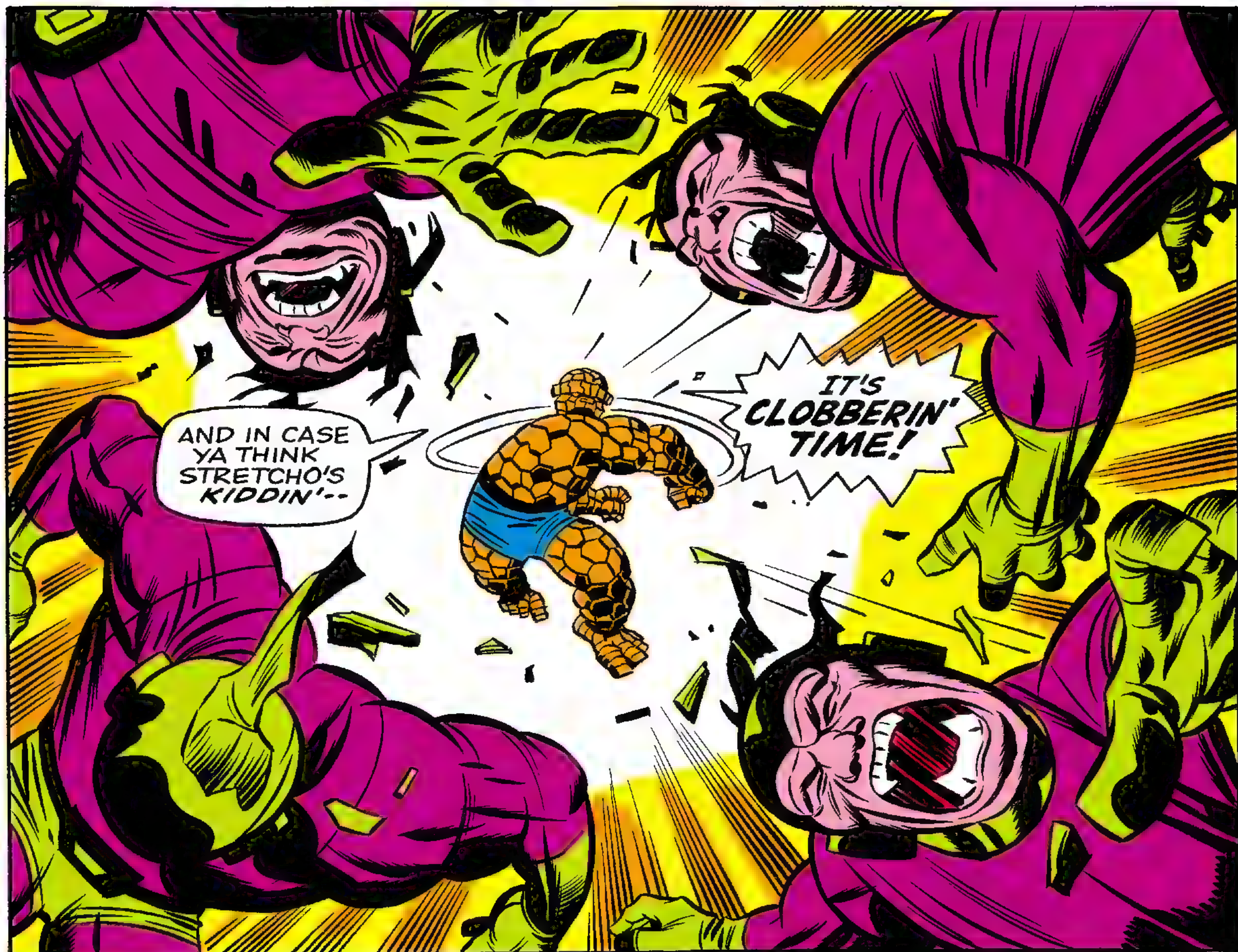
YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND!

THERE ARE
TOO MANY
OF THEM!

**BEN!
JOHNNY!
LET'S
GO!**

YOU'RE
ONE OF *US*
NOW, LADY--

AND THE
FF TAKES
CARE OF
ITS OWN!



**BUT, EVEN AS THE FIGHTING-MAD TRIO
DRAWS CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE
CAPTIVE GIRL--**

**CRYS! USE YOUR
ELEMENTAL
POWER
AGAINST 'EM!**

**WHAT ARE YOU
WAITING FOR,
HONEY? YOU
CAN DO IT!**

**I DON'T
GET IT!
SHE'S NOT
EVEN
TRYING!**

**THEY'RE
HEADING
BACK--
TOWARDS
THE
DIMENSION
SCREEN!**

**BUT, I CAN'T
JUST LET
THEM CARRY
HER OFF THAT
WAY!**

**NO MATTER
WHAT SHE
SAYS!**

**I'M AFRAID
WE HAVEN'T
MUCH
CHOICE,
JOHNNY--!**

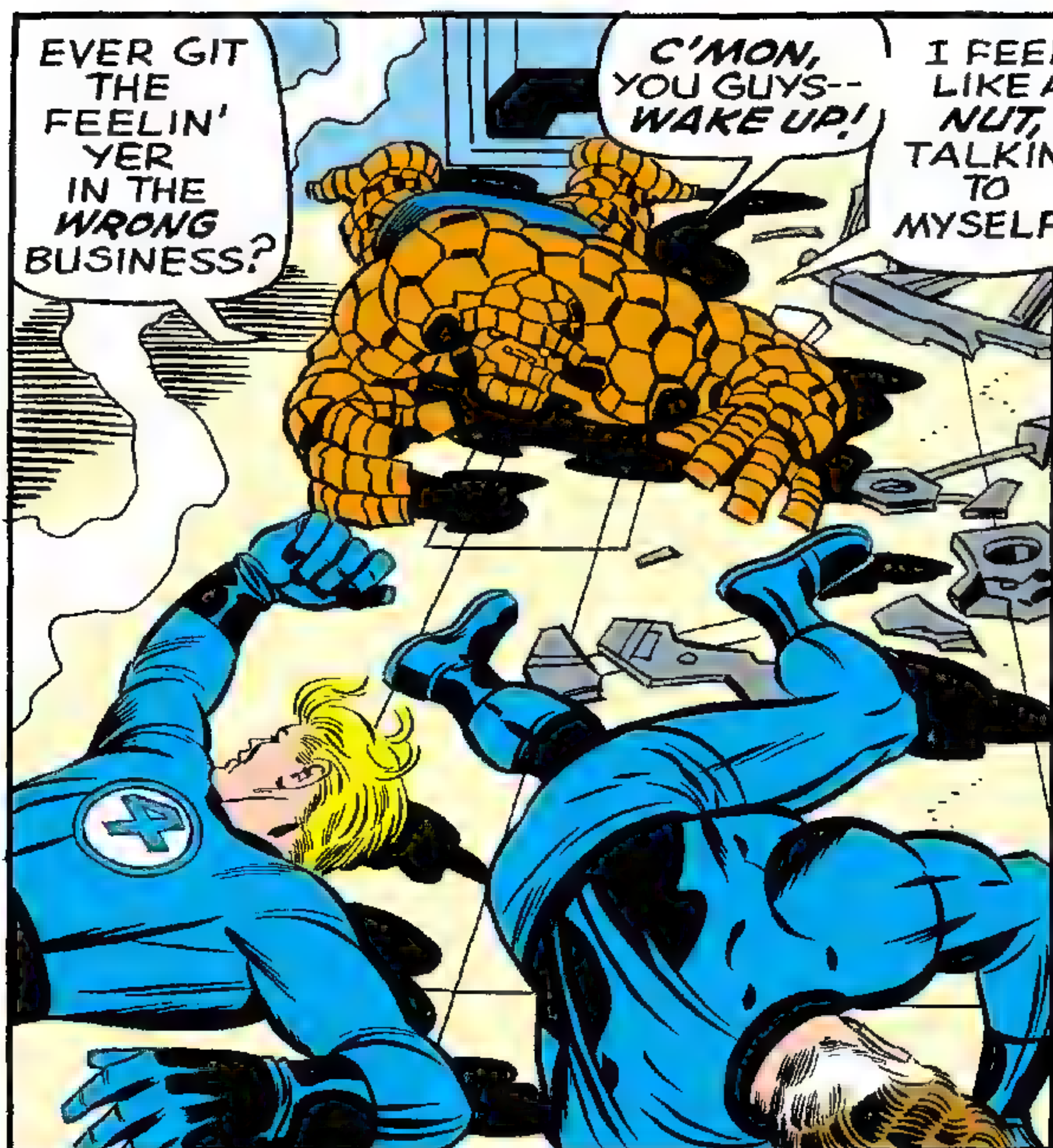
**DON'T
INTERFERE
WITH THEM--
PLEASE!**

**THEY KNOW
WHAT THEY'RE
DOING!**

**SHE
MEANS
IT! SHE
DOESN'T
WANT
OUR
HELP!**

**THEY
SHUT
THE
SCREEN
BEHIND
THEM!**

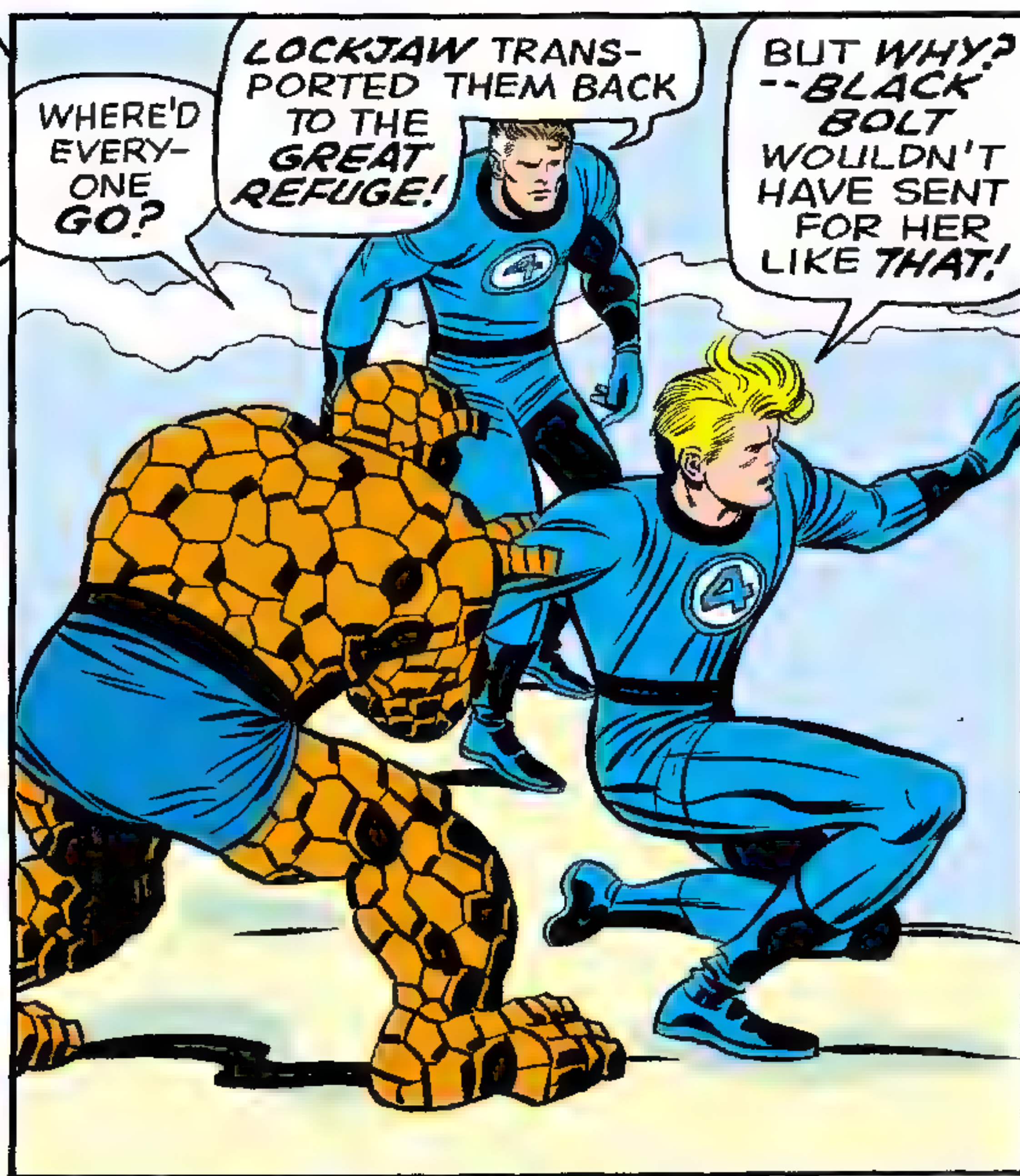
**THERE'S
NO WAY
WE CAN
FOLLOW!**



EVER GIT
THE
FEELIN'
YER
IN THE
WRONG
BUSINESS?

C'MON,
YOU GUYS--
WAKE UP!

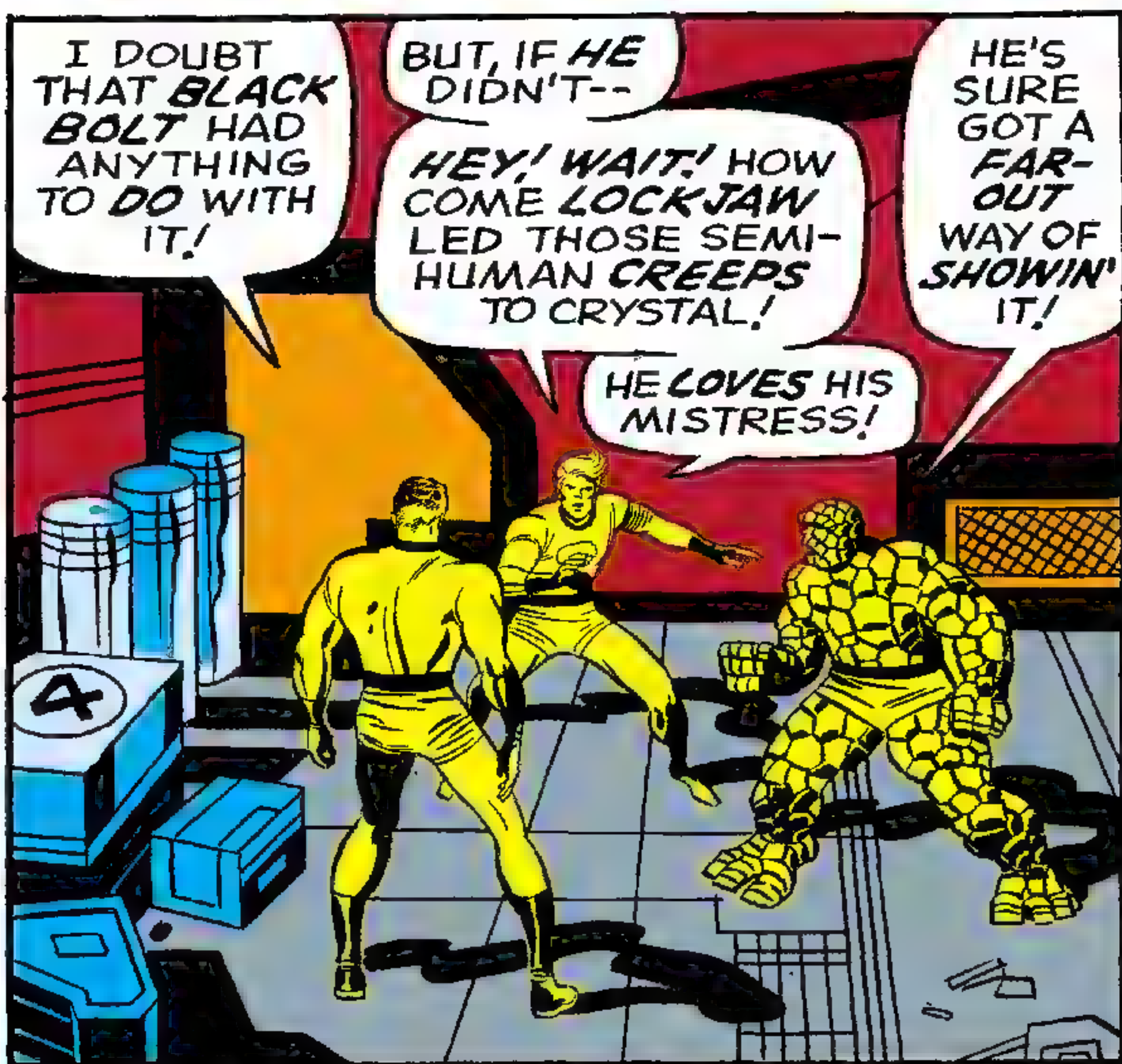
I FEEL
LIKE A
NUT,
TALKIN'
TO
MYSELF!



WHERE'D
EVERY-
ONE
GO?

LOCKJAW TRANS-
PORTED THEM BACK
TO THE
GREAT
REFUGE!

BUT WHY?
--BLACK
BOLT
WOULDN'T
HAVE SENT
FOR HER
LIKE THAT!



I DOUBT
THAT BLACK
BOLT HAD
ANYTHING
TO DO WITH
IT!

BUT, IF HE
DIDN'T--

HEY! WAIT! HOW
COME LOCKJAW
LED THOSE SEMI-
HUMAN CREEPS
TO CRYSTAL!

HE'S
SURE
GOT A
FAR-
OUT
WAY OF
SHOWIN'
IT!

HE LOVES HIS
MISTRESS!

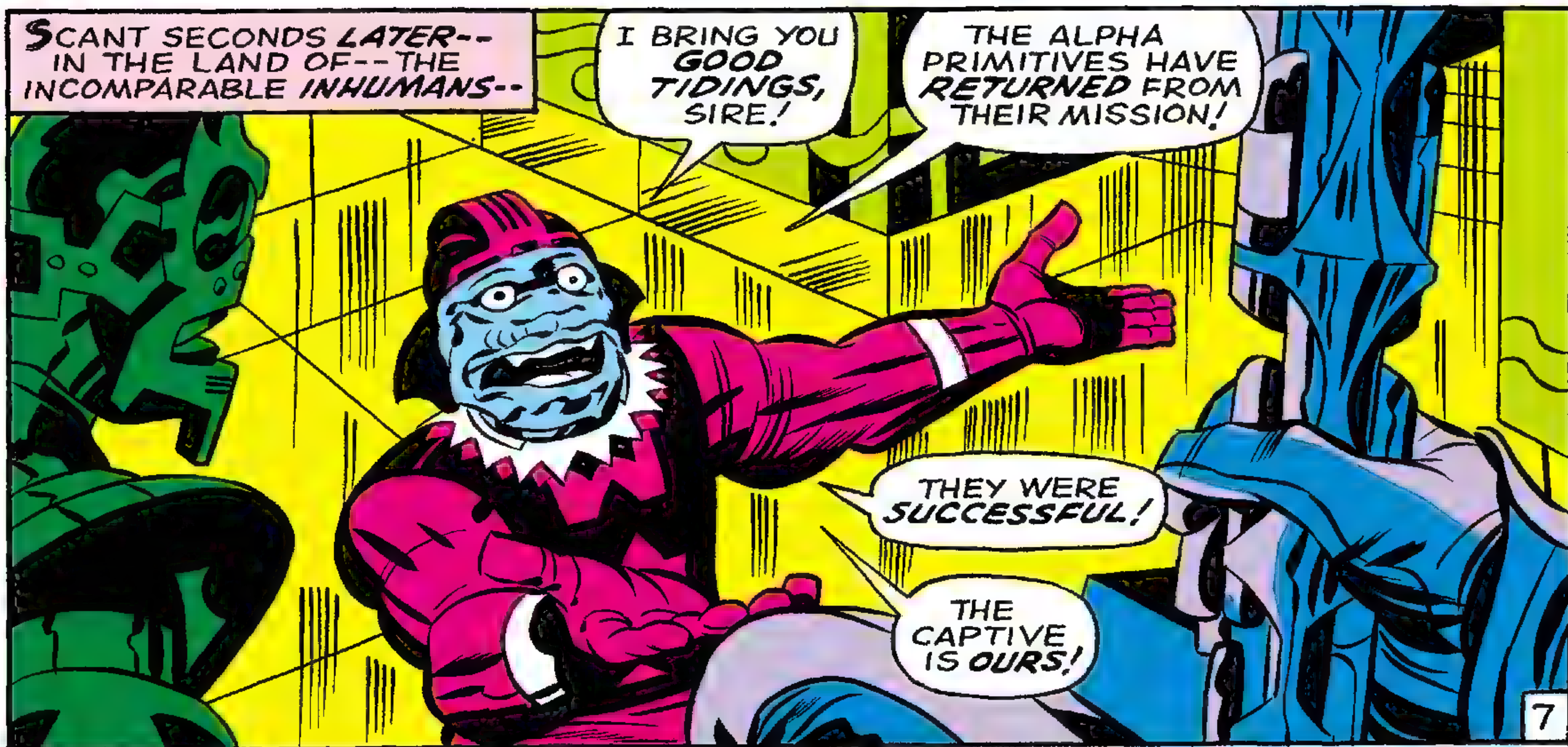


LET'S GET MOVING!

WE KNOW WHERE
THEIR REFUGE IS--
AND WE'VE GOT
THE ROCKET TO
REACH IT!

YOU'RE RIGHT,
BOY! I'LL PREPARE
FOR BLAST-OFF
NOW!

WELL, IT'S
BETTER'N
WATCHIN'
TV!



SCANT SECONDS LATER--
IN THE LAND OF--THE
INCOMPARABLE INHUMANS--

I BRING YOU
GOOD
TIDINGS,
SIRE!

THE ALPHA
PRIMITIVES HAVE
RETURNED FROM
THEIR MISSION!

THEY WERE
SUCCESSFUL!

THE
CAPTIVE
IS OURS!

LET IT
BE KNOWN--

**MAXIMUS
IS
PLEASED!**

NOW THAT YOU HAVE
HEARD THE NEWS,
MEDUSA--SURELY YOU
REALIZE THAT **NONE**
CAN EVER AGAIN
DEPRIVE ME OF MY
THRONE!

NOT EVEN THE
DEPOSED **BLACK
BOLT**--WHO IS
POWERLESS TO
AID YOU NOW!

THEY DARED
TO CALL ME
MAD, DID THEY?
**MAXIMUS THE
MADMAN**, EH?

COULD A **MADMAN**
HAVE ACHIEVED THE
VICTORIES I'VE WON?

--OR RENDERED
YOU **HELPLESS**--
BY COATING YOUR
HAIR WITH A
CHEMICAL OF MY
OWN INVENTION?

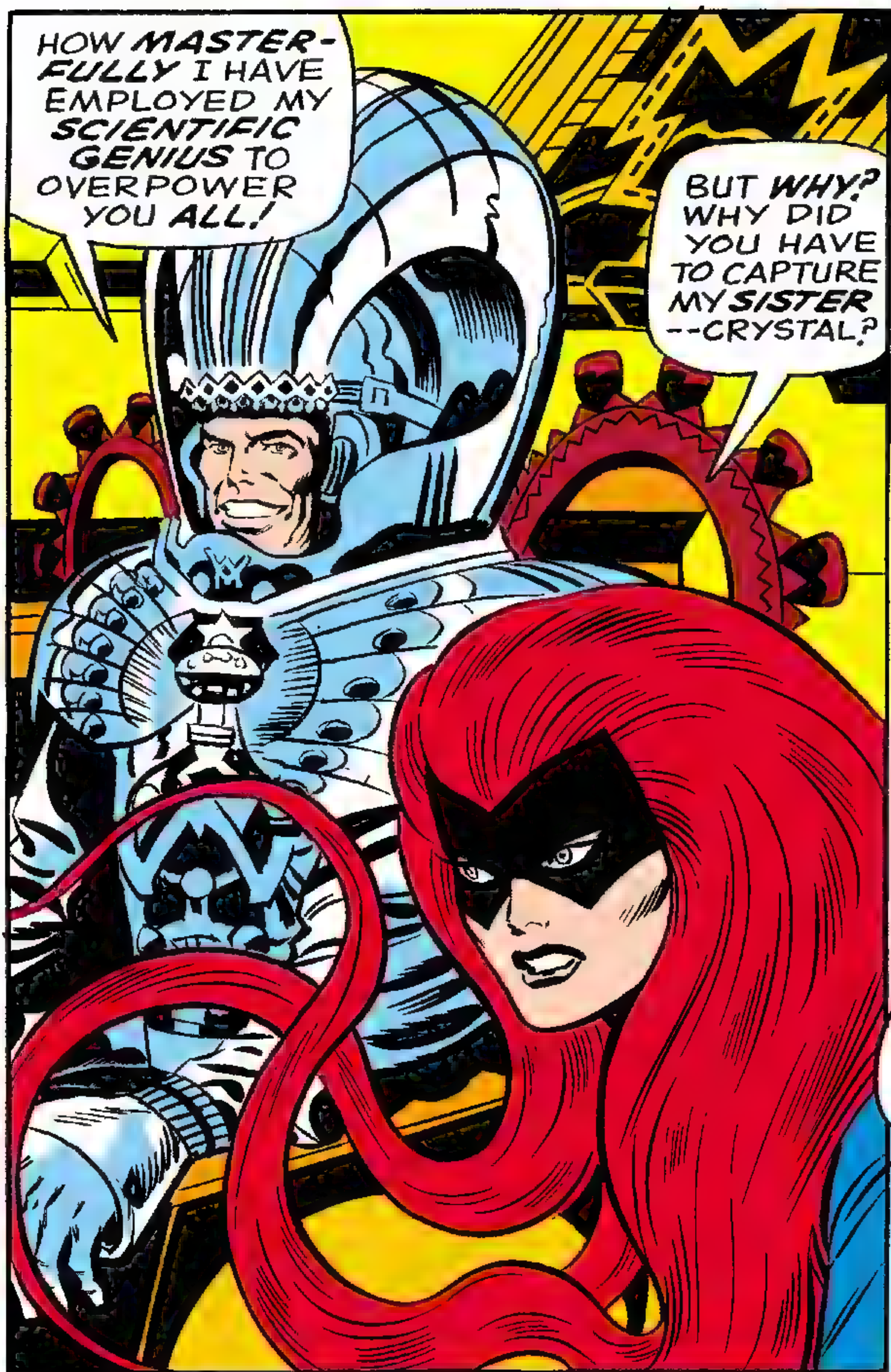
EVEN
LOCKJAW
WAS
PLACED
UNDER MY
ROYAL
CONTROL!

--BY THE SIMPLE
EXPEDIENT OF
TAPING A **HYPNO-
STUD** UPON HIS
IMPERVIOUS
HIDE!

NO NEED
TO MAKE
REPLY,
MEDUSA!

MERELY **REMAIN**
WHERE YOU ARE--
TO REMIND ME OF
MY **TRIUMPH!**

--WHILE I PLAN
MY NEWEST AND
MOST BRILLIANT
STRATEGEMS!



HOW MASTER-
FULLY I HAVE
EMPLOYED MY
SCIENTIFIC
GENIUS TO
OVERPOWER
YOU ALL!

BUT WHY?
WHY DID
YOU HAVE
TO CAPTURE
MY *SISTER*
--CRYSTAL?



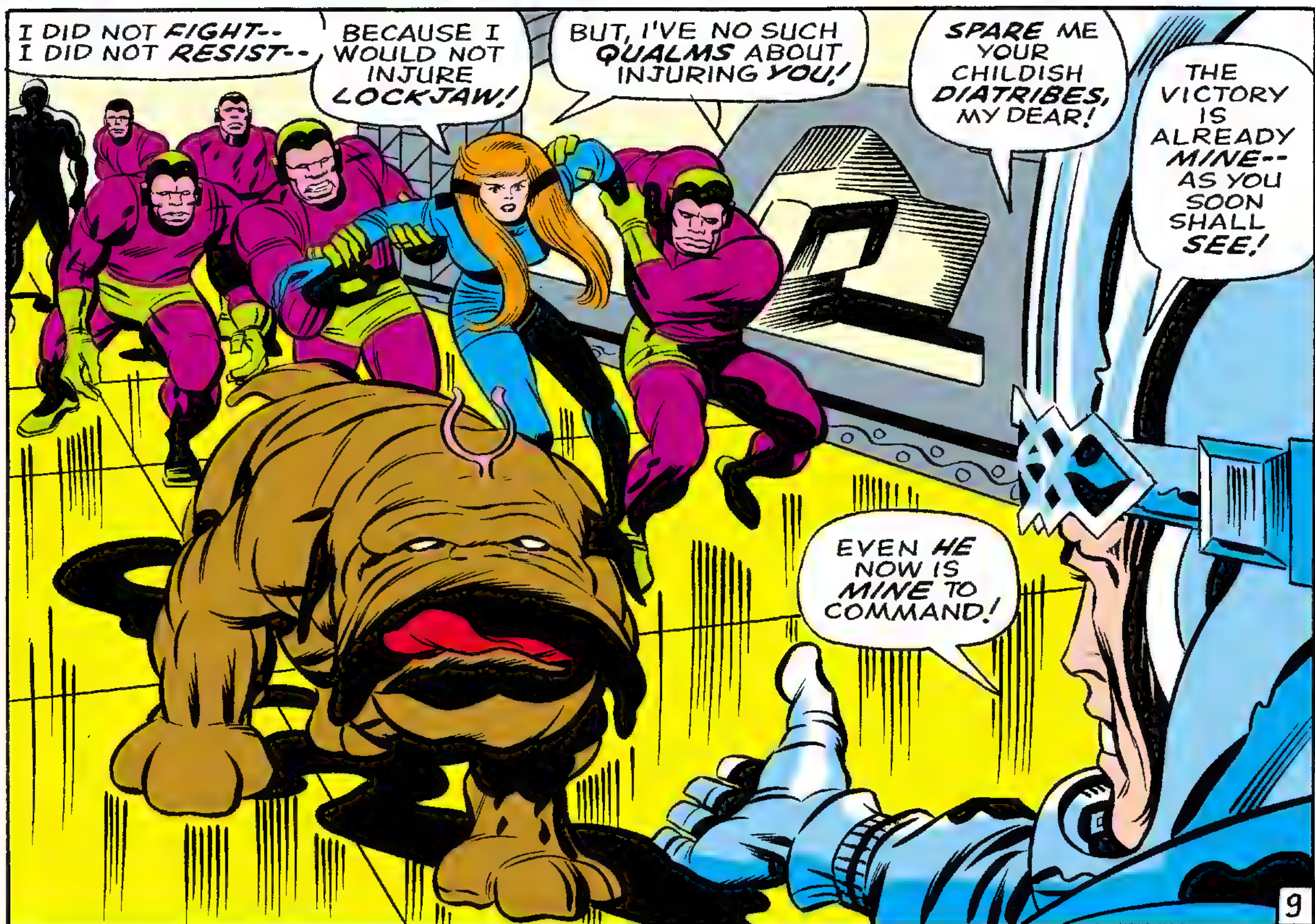
BECAUSE
MAXIMUS
LEAVES
NOTHING
TO
CHANCE!

SO LONG AS
ONE OF THE
FAMILY
ROYAL ROOMS
FREE--I CAN
NEVER BE
SECURE!

BUT NOW--
I HAVE
CONQUERED
YOU ALL!

HENCE, I
SHALL
FOREVER
RULE
ALL THE
INHUMANS!

AND NOW--
BRING
FORTH
THE
PRISONER!



I DID NOT FIGHT--
I DID NOT RESIST--

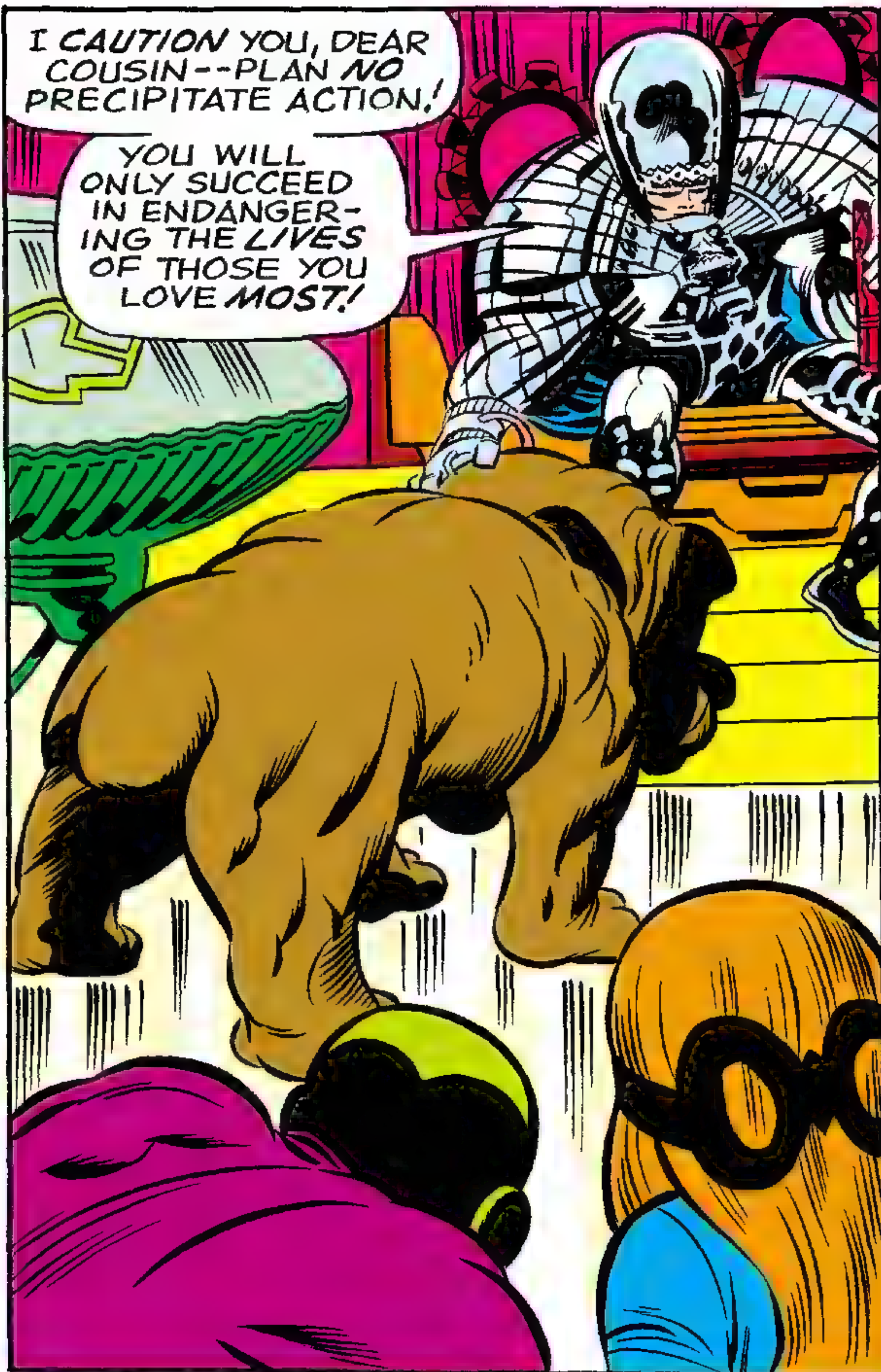
BECAUSE I
WOULD NOT
INJURE
LOCKJAW!

BUT, I'VE NO SUCH
QUALMS ABOUT
INJURING YOU!

SPARE ME
YOUR
CHILDISH
DIATRIBES,
MY DEAR!

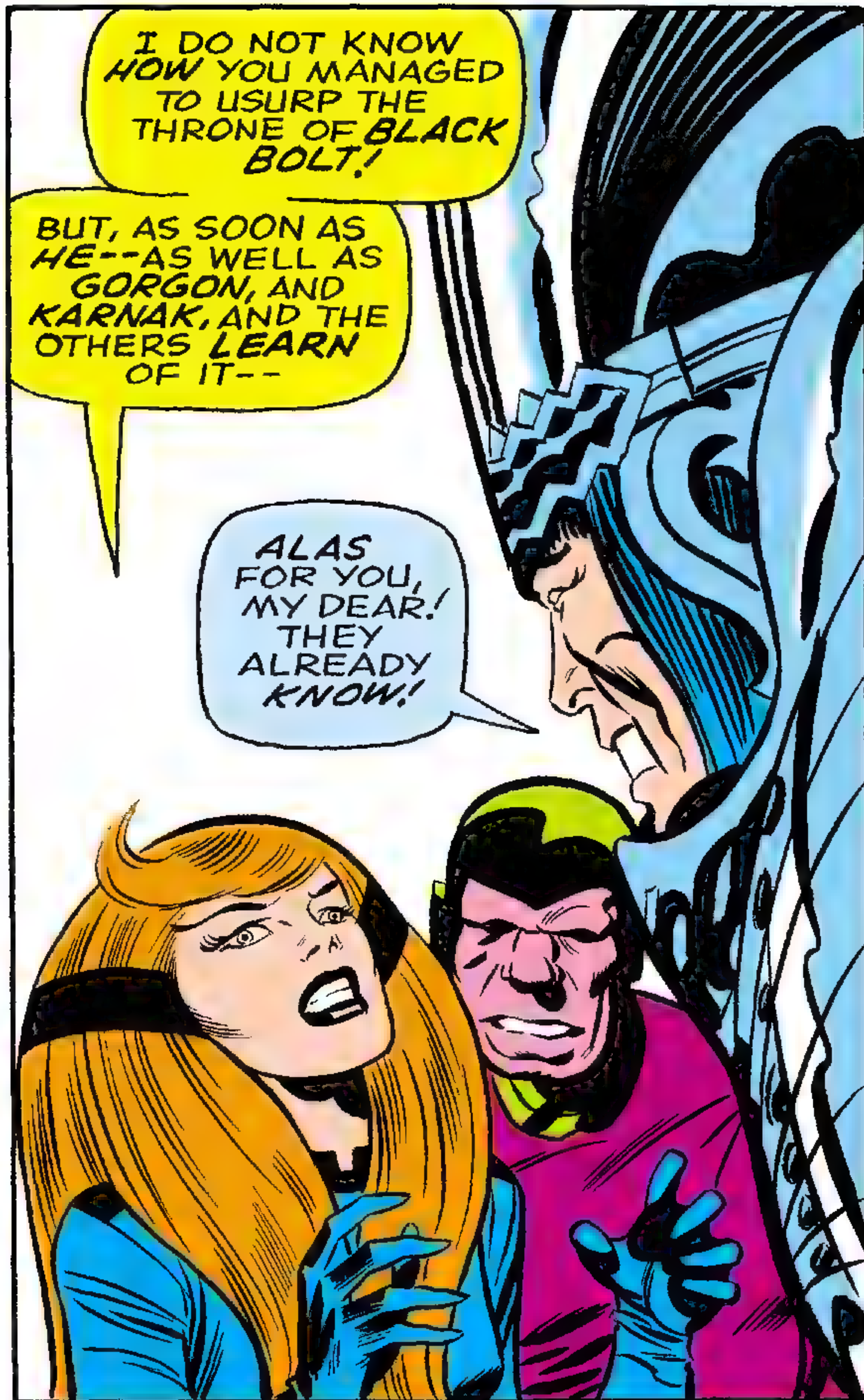
THE
VICTORY
IS
ALREADY
MINE--
AS YOU
SOON
SHALL
SEE!

EVEN HE
NOW IS
MINE TO
COMMAND!



I CAUTION YOU, DEAR COUSIN--PLAN NO PRECIPITATE ACTION!

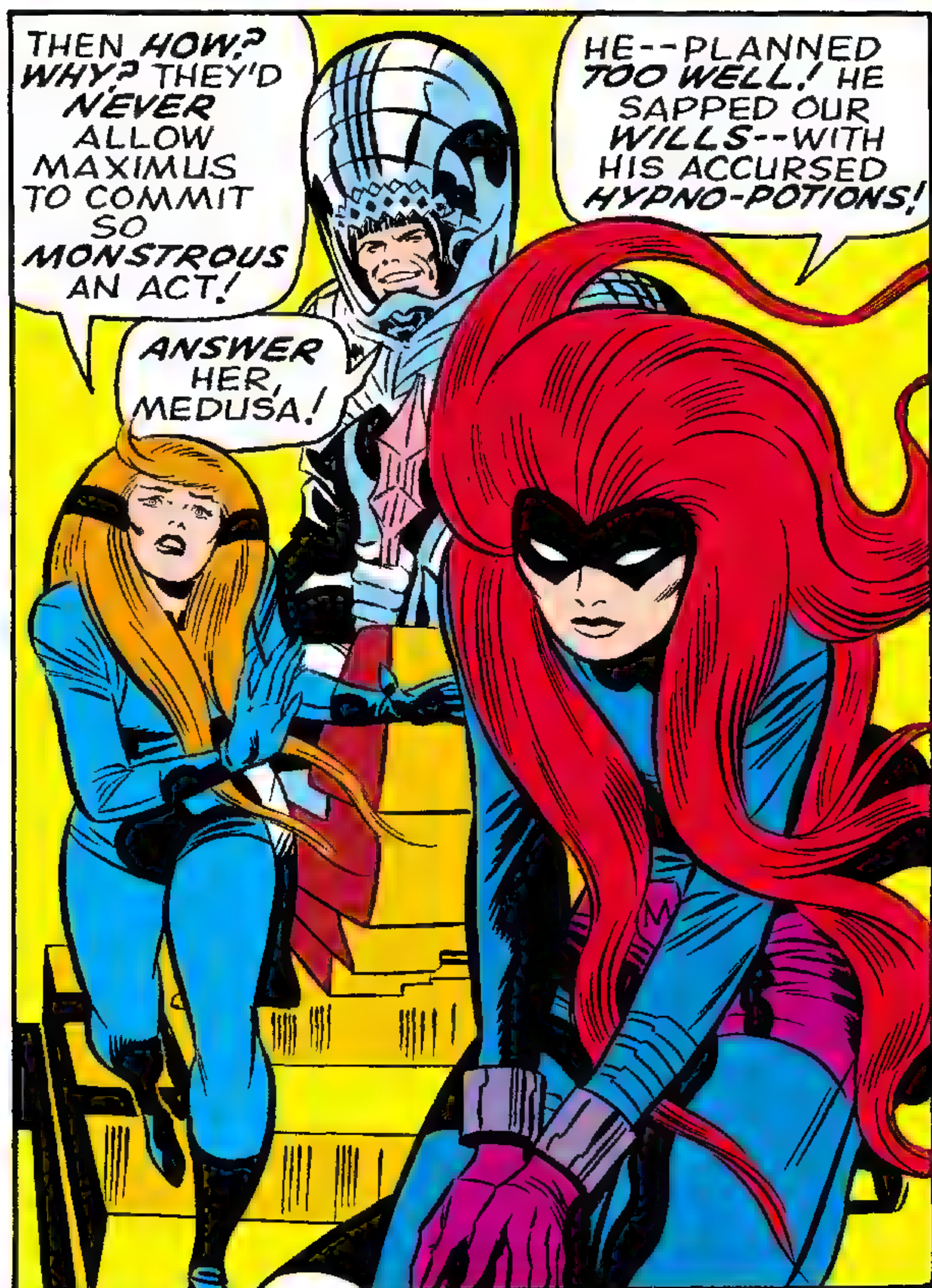
YOU WILL ONLY SUCCEED IN ENDANGERING THE LIVES OF THOSE YOU LOVE MOST!



I DO NOT KNOW HOW YOU MANAGED TO USURP THE THRONE OF BLACK BOLT!

BUT, AS SOON AS HE--AS WELL AS GORGON, AND KARNAK, AND THE OTHERS LEARN OF IT--

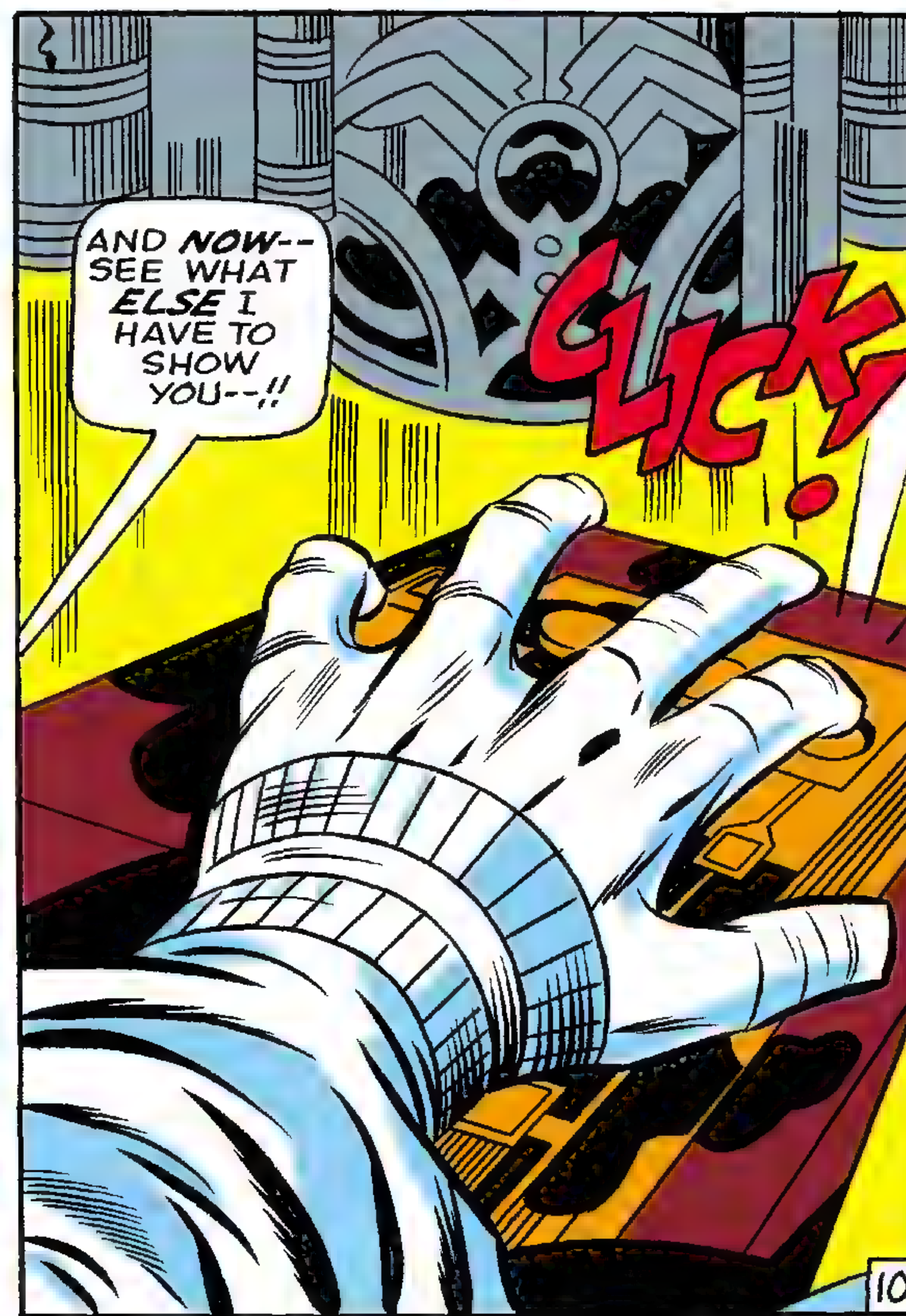
ALAS FOR YOU, MY DEAR! THEY ALREADY KNOW!



THEN HOW? WHY? THEY'D NEVER ALLOW MAXIMUS TO COMMIT SO MONSTROUS AN ACT!

ANSWER HER, MEDUSA!

HE--PLANNED TOO WELL! HE SAPPED OUR WILLS--WITH HIS ACCURSED HYPNO-POTIONS!



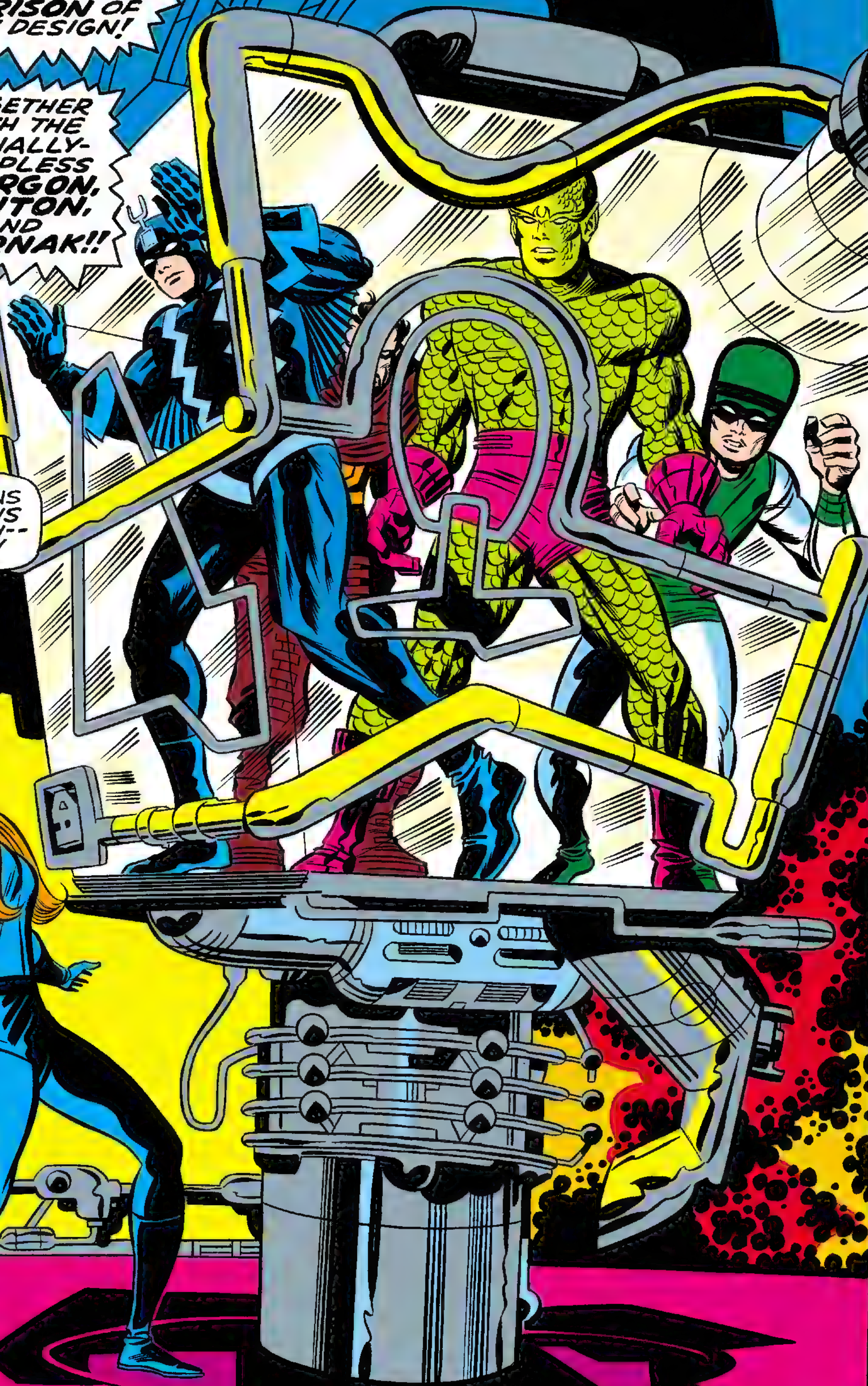
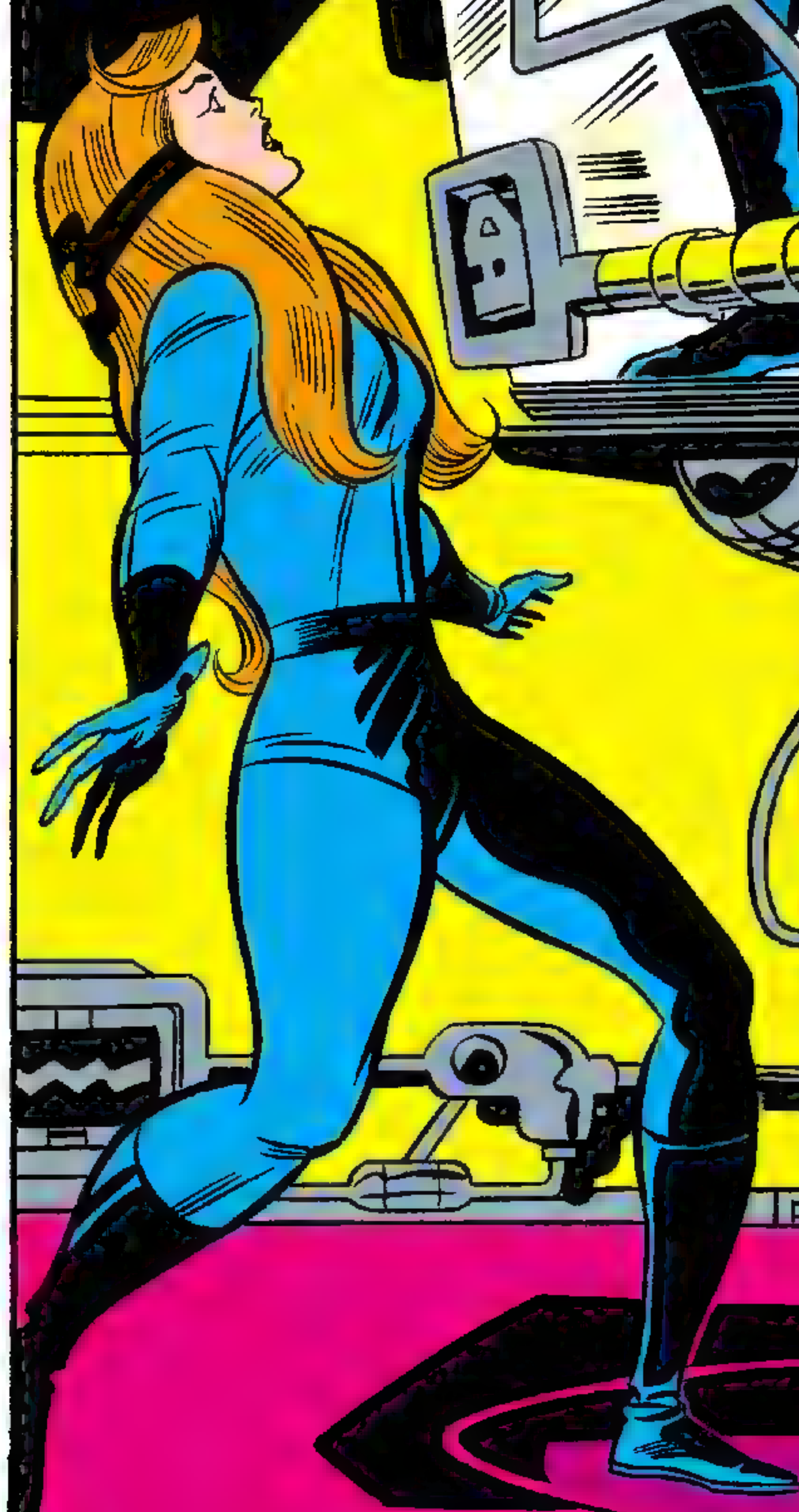
AND NOW--SEE WHAT ELSE I HAVE TO SHOW YOU--!!

YOUR ONCE-MIGHTY
COUSIN--YOUR NOW-
DEPOSED EX-KING--
TRAPPED IN A FORCE
FIELD PRISON OF
MY OWN DESIGN!

--TOGETHER
WITH THE
EQUALLY-
HELPLESS
**GORGON,
TRITON,
AND
KARNAK!!**

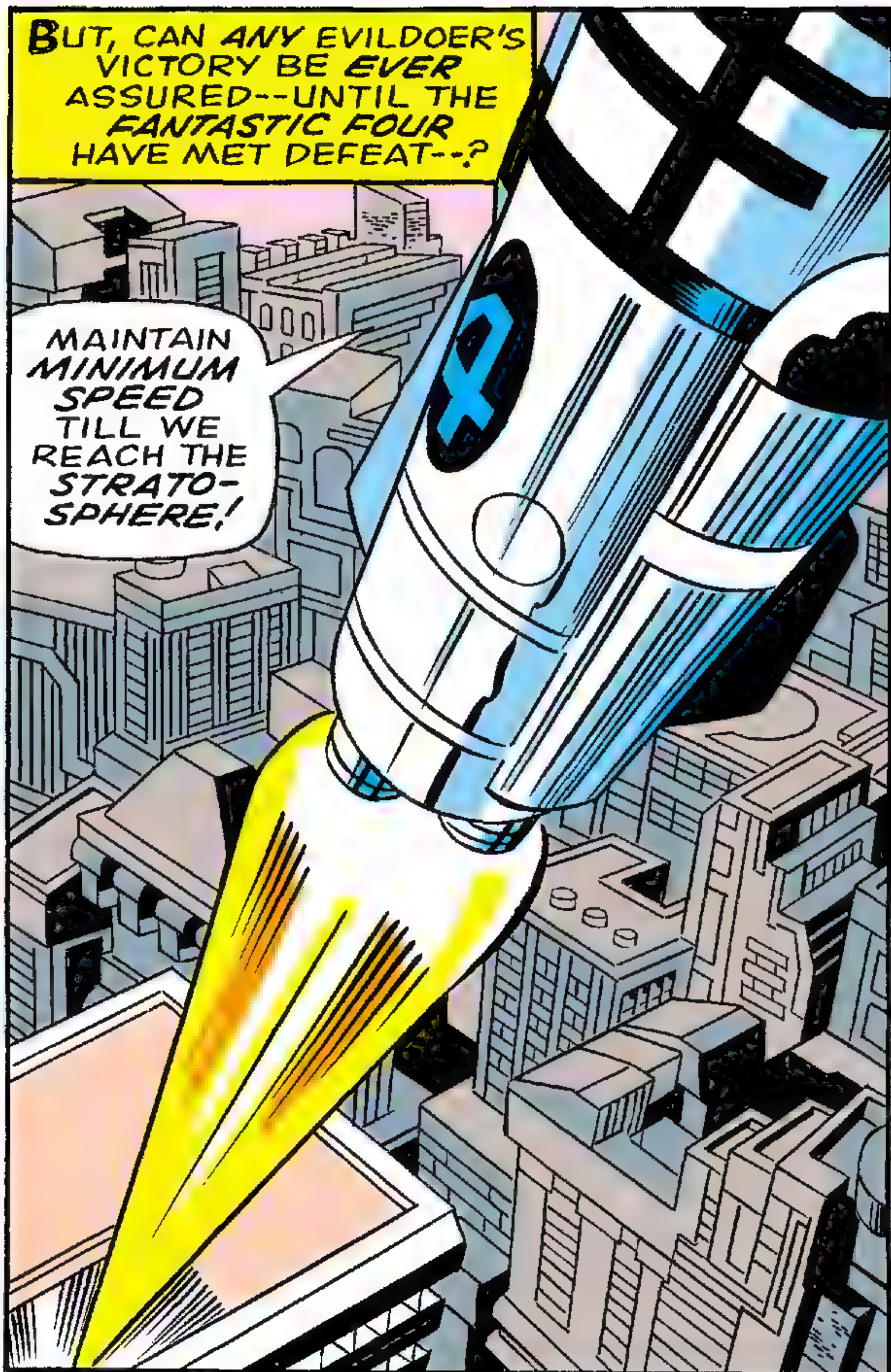
OH
NO!!
NO!

THIS MEANS
--MAXIMUS
HAS WON--
AT LAST!



BUT, CAN ANY EVILDOER'S VICTORY BE EVER ASSURED--UNTIL THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE MET DEFEAT--?

MAINTAIN MINIMUM SPEED TILL WE REACH THE STRATO-SPHERE!



NOW--ALL ROCKET ENGINES--FULL THROTTLE!!

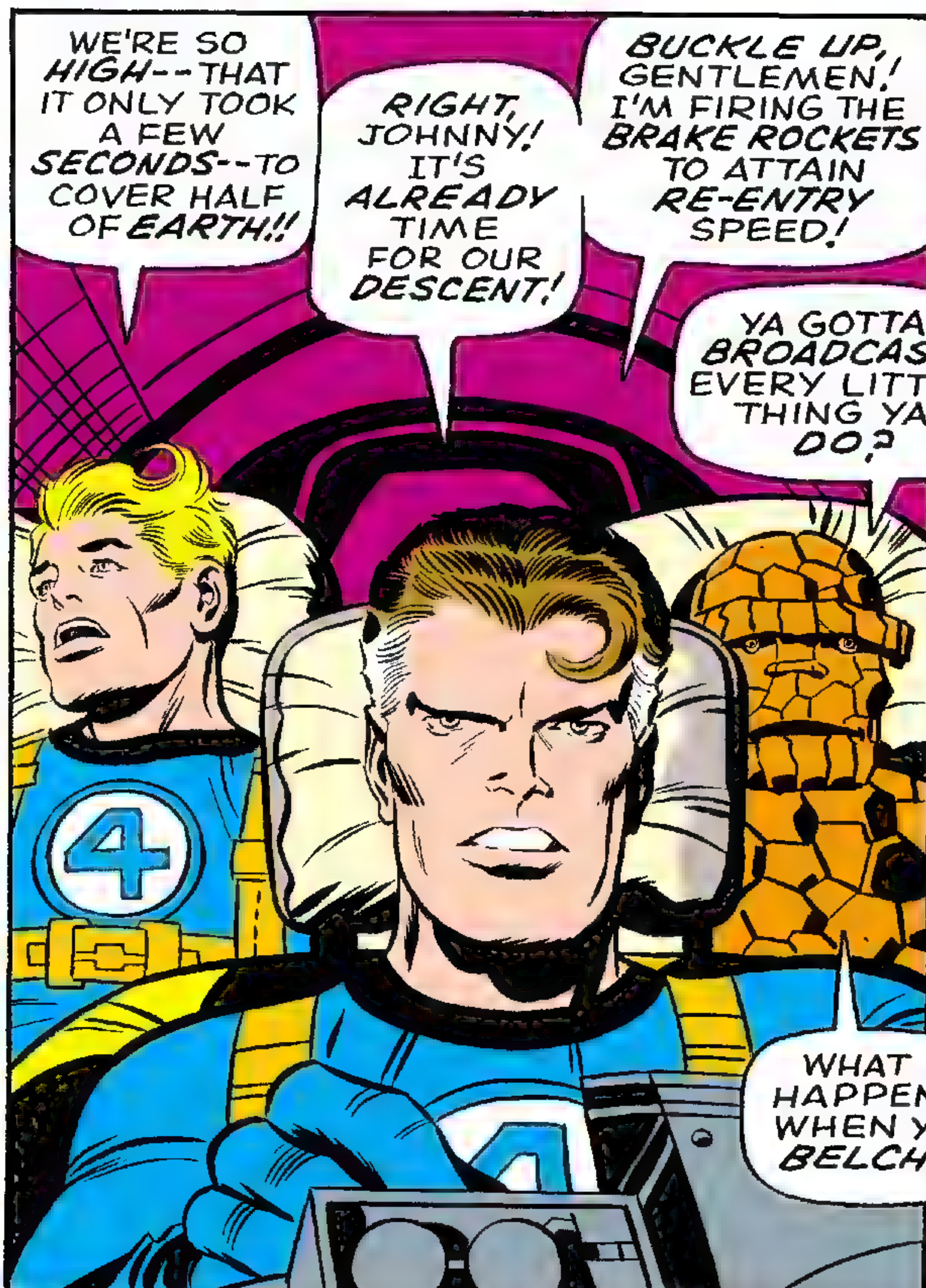


WE'RE SO HIGH--THAT IT ONLY TOOK A FEW SECONDS--TO COVER HALF OF EARTH!!

RIGHT, JOHNNY! IT'S ALREADY TIME FOR OUR DESCENT!

BUCKLE UP, GENTLEMEN! I'M FIRING THE BRAKE ROCKETS TO ATTAIN RE-ENTRY SPEED!

YA GOTTA BROADCAST EVERY LITTLE THING YA DO?



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YA BELCH?!!

HEY, HOLD IT, BLAST YA-- HOLD IT!

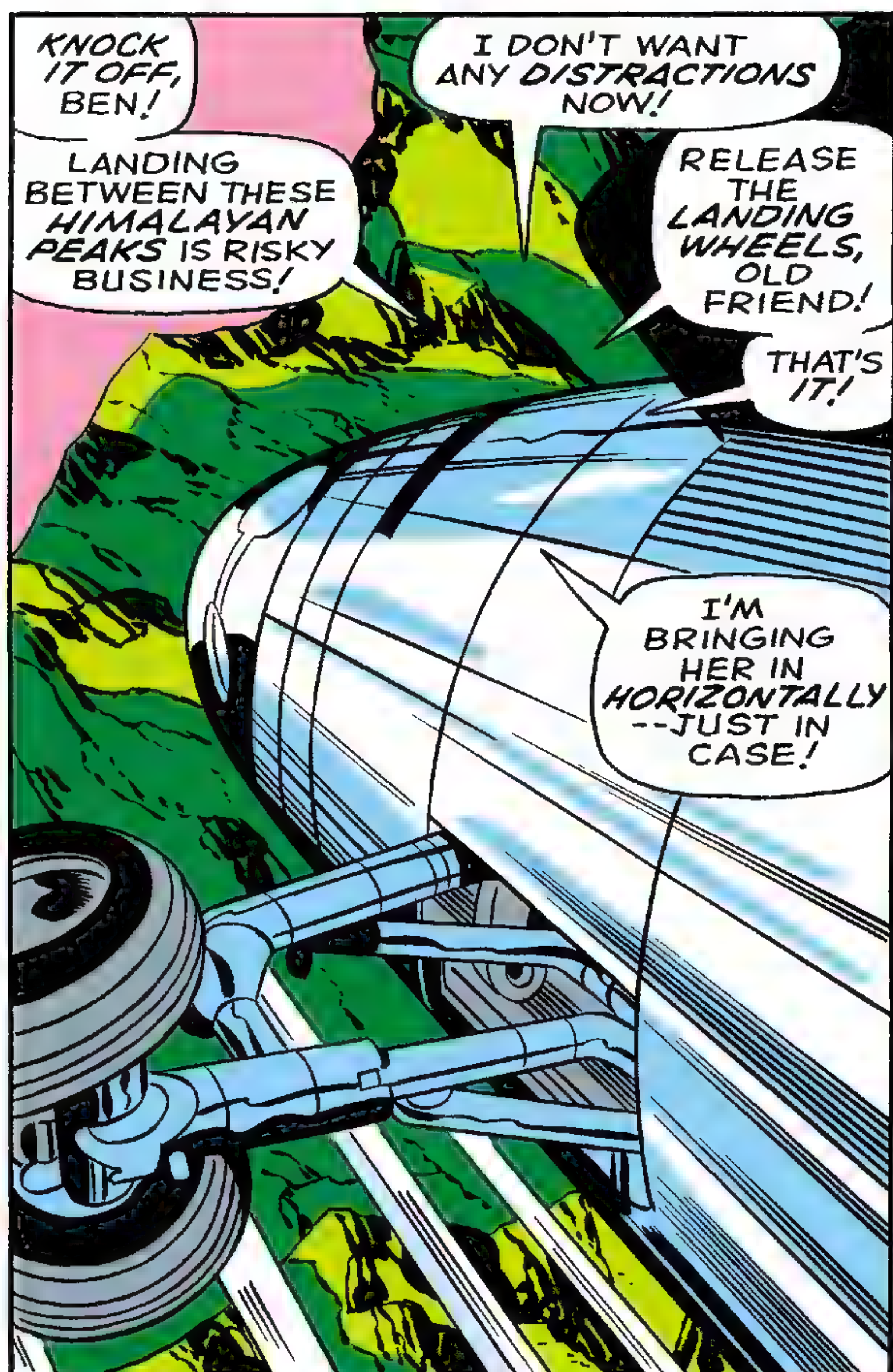
YA DIDN'T HAVETA BANK SO SHARP ON ACCOUNTA WHAT I SAID!

CAN'TCHA EVEN TAKE A JOKE?

SHEESH! WOTTA GROUCH!

THEY'D LOVE YA ON YANCY STREET!





KNOCK IT OFF, BEN!

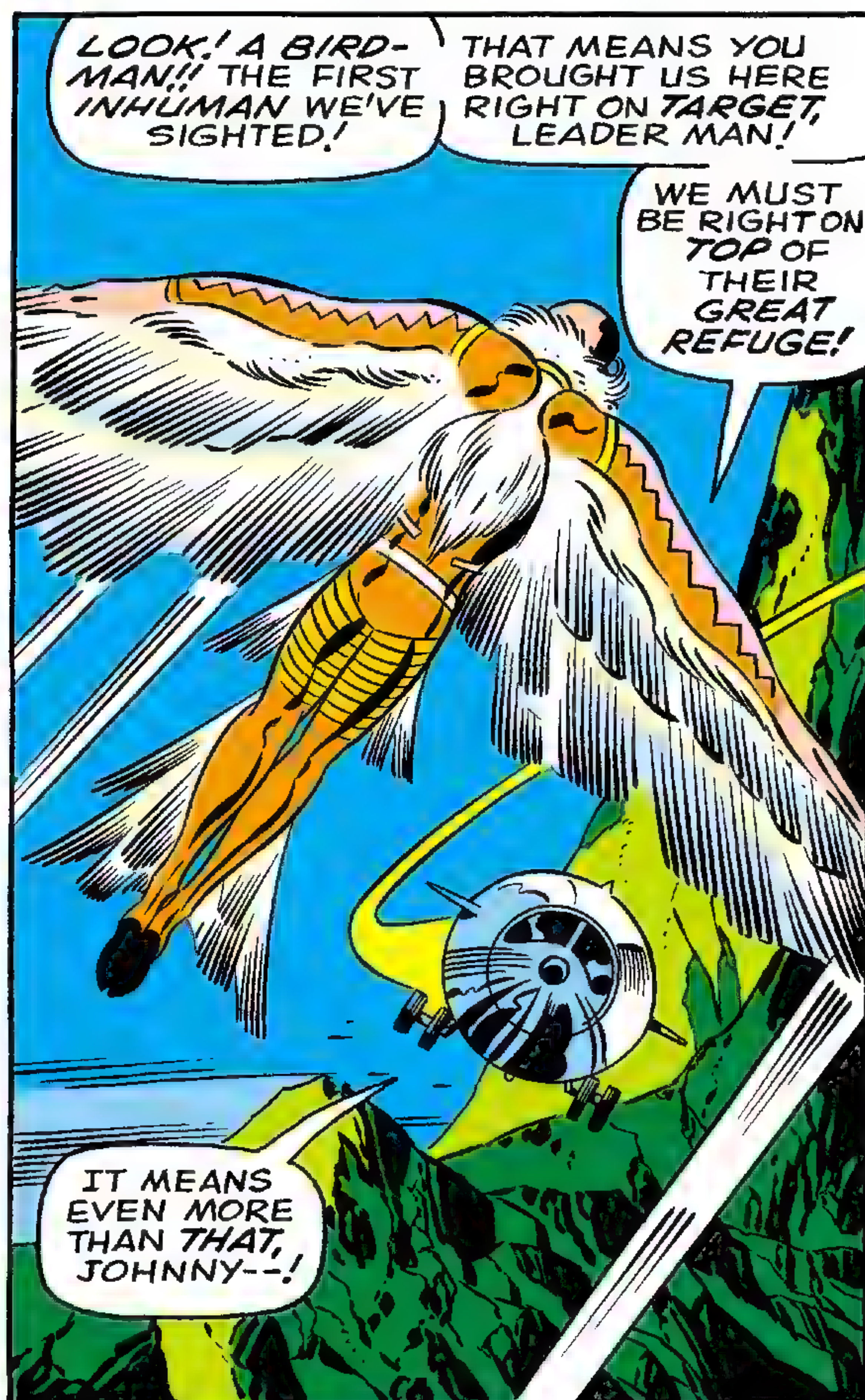
LANDING BETWEEN THESE HIMALAYAN PEAKS IS RISKY BUSINESS!

I DON'T WANT ANY DISTRACTIONS NOW!

RELEASE THE LANDING WHEELS, OLD FRIEND!

THAT'S IT!

I'M BRINGING HER IN HORIZONTALLY --JUST IN CASE!

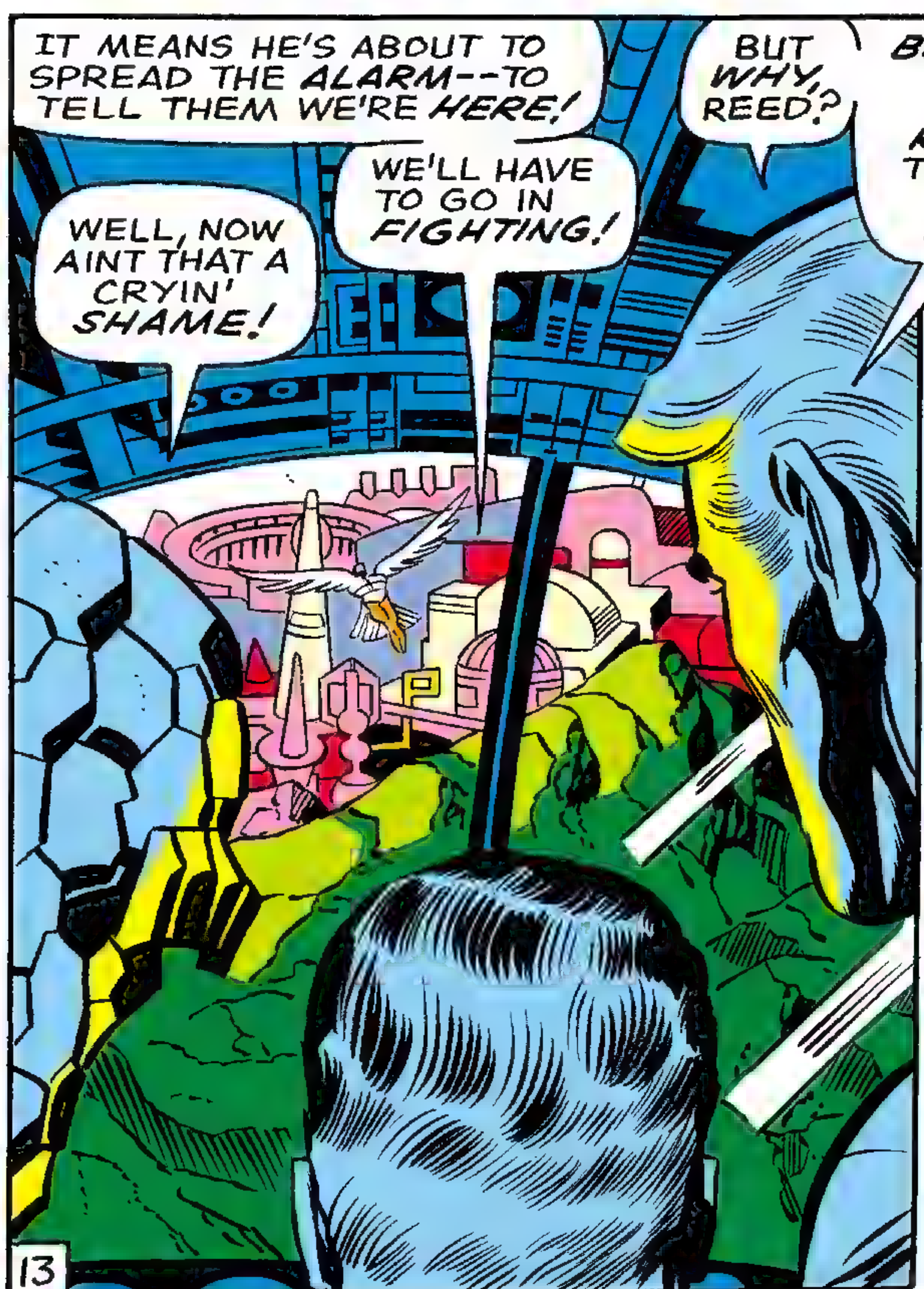


LOOK! A BIRD-MAN!! THE FIRST INHUMAN WE'VE SIGHTED!

THAT MEANS YOU BROUGHT US HERE RIGHT ON TARGET, LEADER MAN!

WE MUST BE RIGHT ON TOP OF THEIR GREAT REFUGE!

IT MEANS EVEN MORE THAN THAT, JOHNNY--!



IT MEANS HE'S ABOUT TO SPREAD THE ALARM--TO TELL THEM WE'RE HERE!

WELL, NOW AIN'T THAT A CRYIN' SHAME!

WE'LL HAVE TO GO IN FIGHTING!

BUT WHY, REED?

BLACK BOLT AND THE OTHERS KNOW US! THEY KNOW WE'RE FRIENDS!

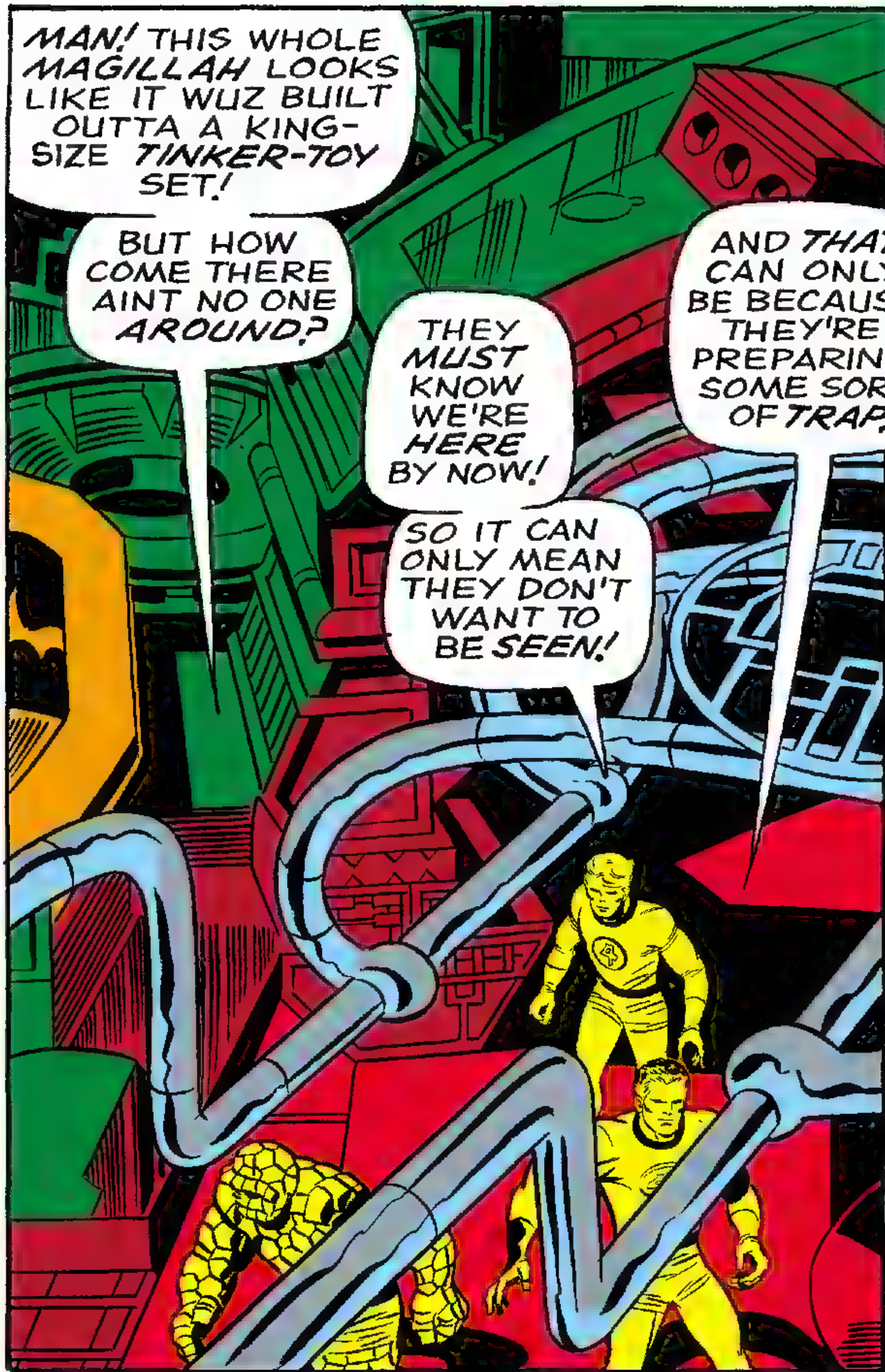
DON'T YOU SEE, LAD? BLACK BOLT WOULD NEVER HAVE SEIZED CRYSTAL!

THAT MEANS SOMEONE ELSE-- SOMEONE HOSTILE-- IS IN COMMAND!

THEN--IT MEANS SHE'S IN GREATER DANGER THAN I THOUGHT!

LOOK! PORTIONS OF THE GREAT BARRIER, WHICH WE ONCE DESTROYED*, STILL REMAIN AS GRIM REMINDERS!

*IT HAPPENED A FEW YEARS AGO, REMEMBER?--WHEN THE FF FINALLY REUNITED CRYSTAL AND JOHNNY!
--STAN.



MAN! THIS WHOLE
MAGILLAH LOOKS
LIKE IT WUZ BUILT
OUTTA A KING-
SIZE *TINKER-TOY*
SET!

BUT HOW
COME THERE
AIN'T NO ONE
AROUND?

THEY
MUST
KNOW
WE'RE
HERE
BY NOW!

SO IT CAN
ONLY MEAN
THEY DON'T
WANT TO
BE SEEN!

AND THAT
CAN ONLY
BE BECAUSE
THEY'RE
PREPARING
SOME SORT
OF TRAP!



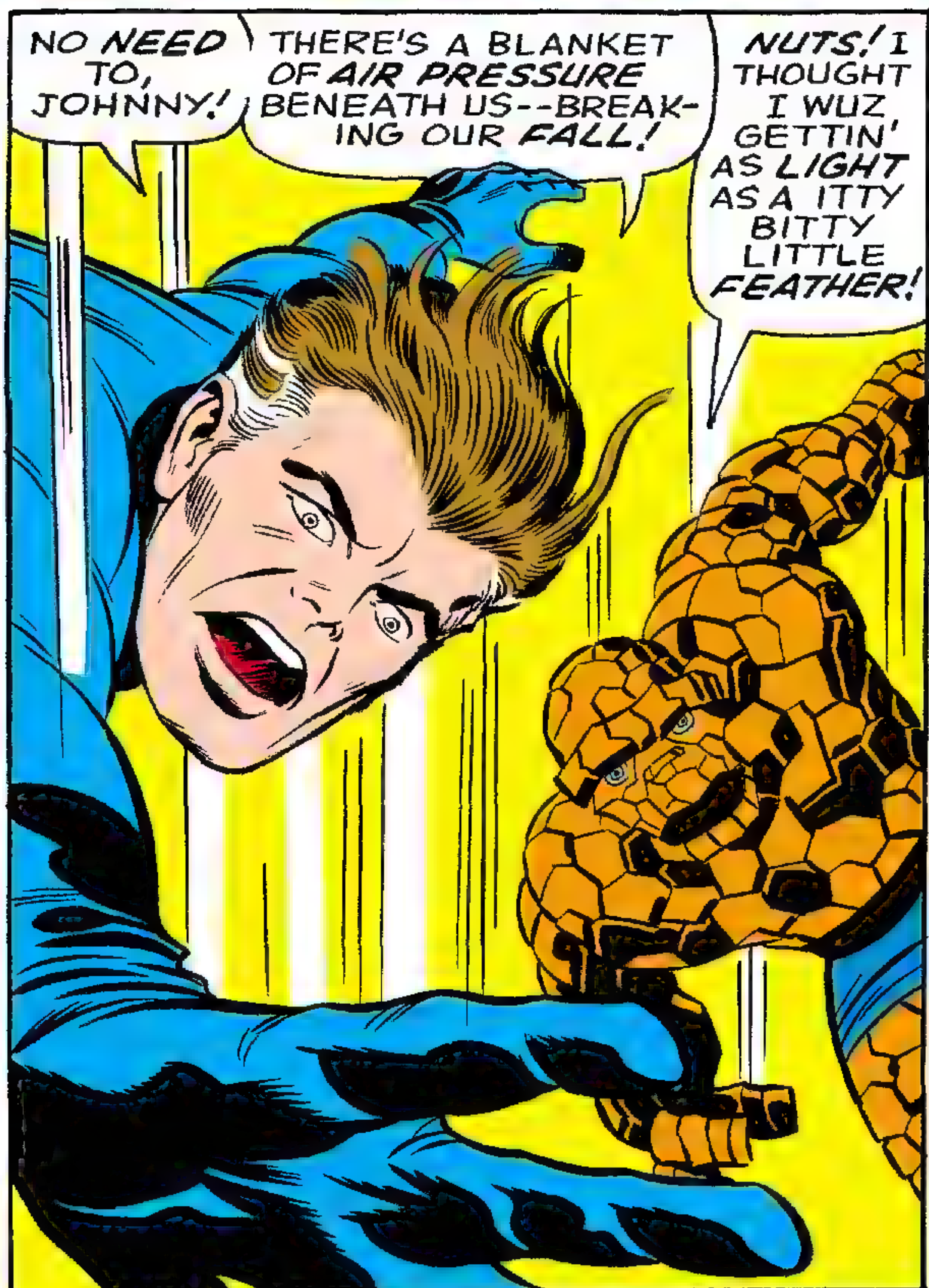
LOOK OUT!
THE **PAVEMENT**
IS OPENING--
BENEATH OUR
FEET!

JUST
WHAT
I WAS
AFRAID
OF!

CAN'TCHA
EVER BE
WRONG
FER ONCE?

--JUST
TA SEE
HOW IT
FEELS!

I'LL
FLAME
ON--AND
TRY TO
CATCH
YOU!



NO NEED
TO,
JOHNNY!

THERE'S A BLANKET
OF AIR PRESSURE
BENEATH US--BREAK-
ING OUR FALL!

NUTS! I
THOUGHT
I WUZ
GETTIN'
AS LIGHT
AS A ITTY
BITTY
LITTLE
FEATHER!



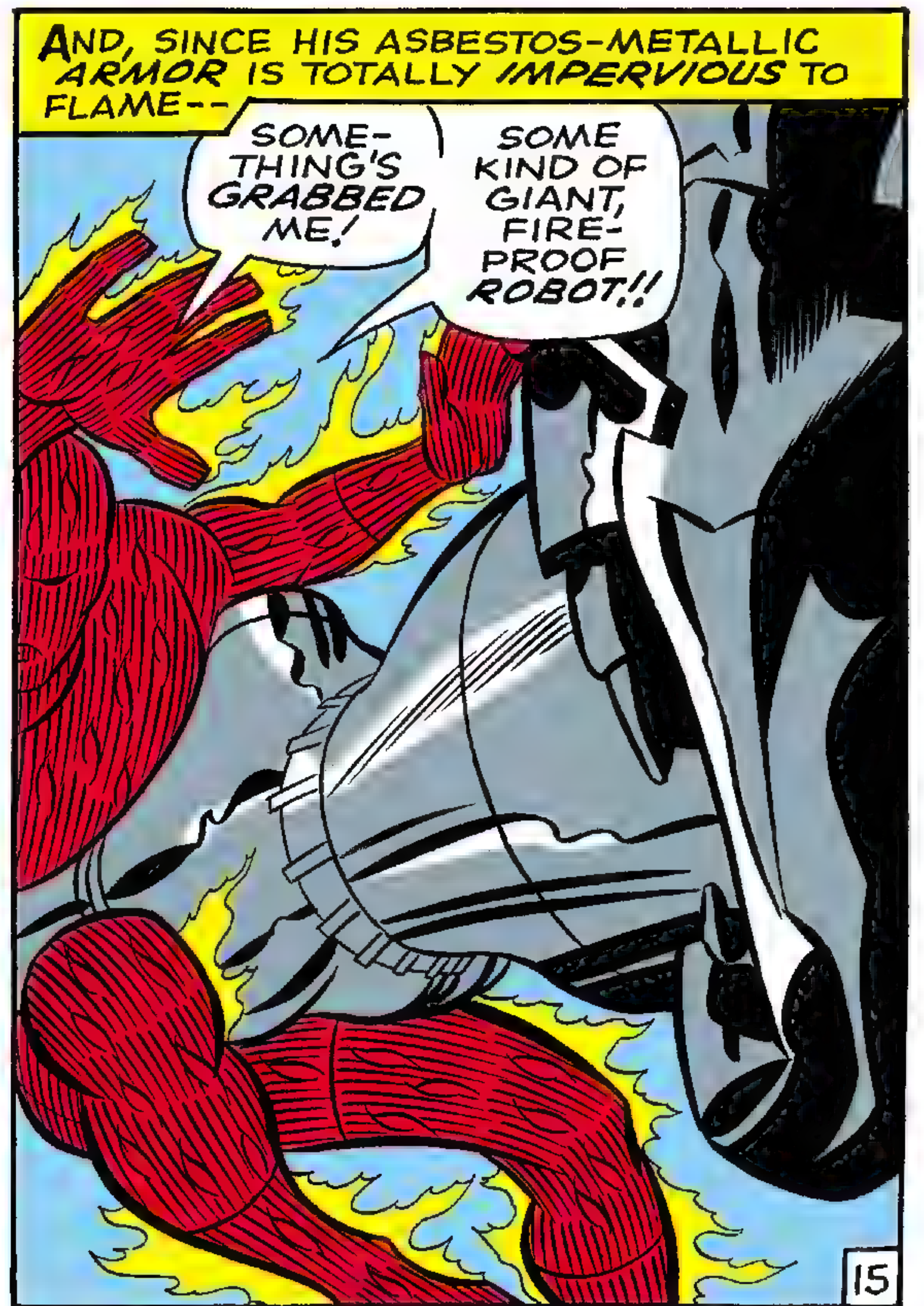
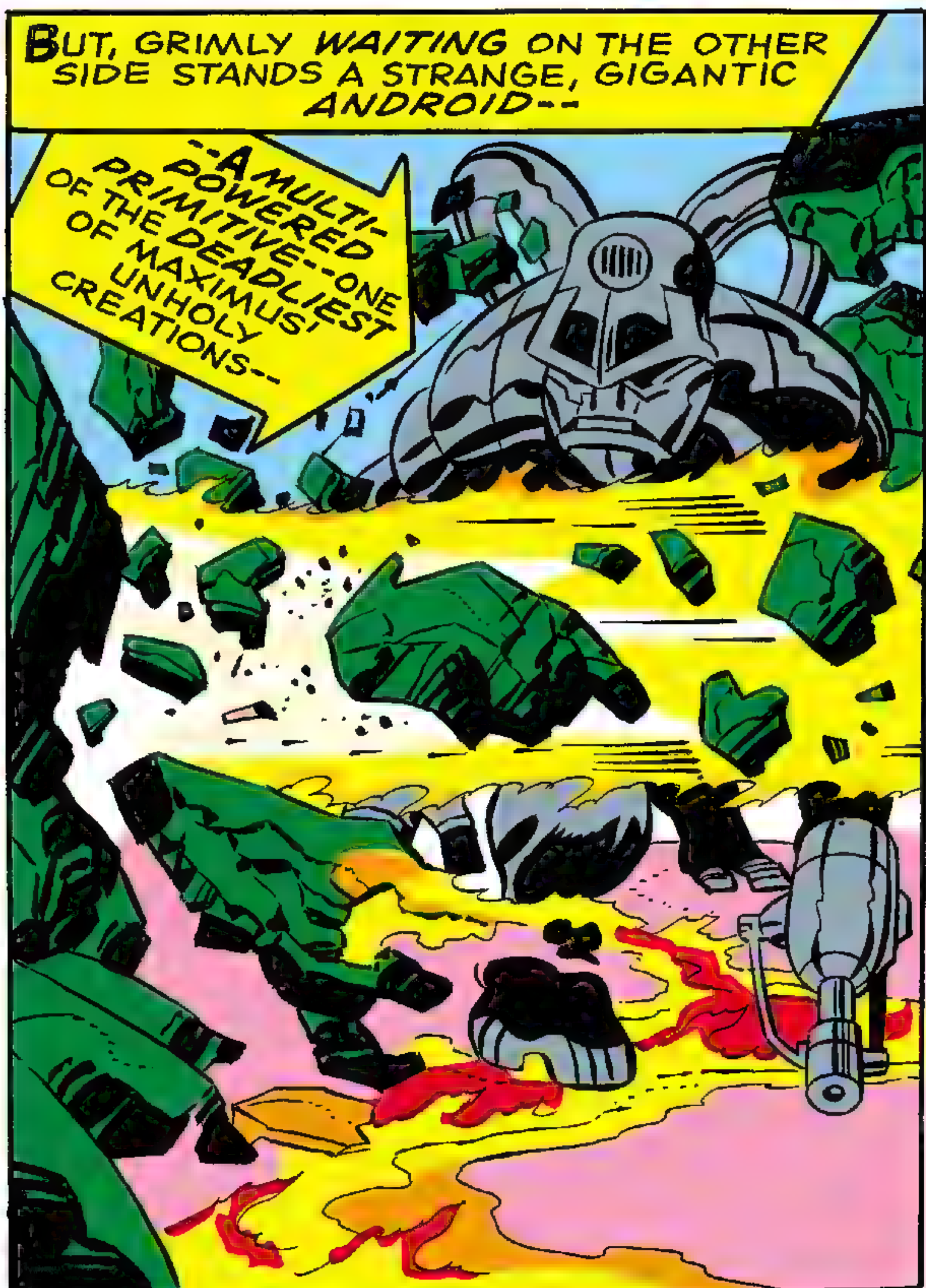
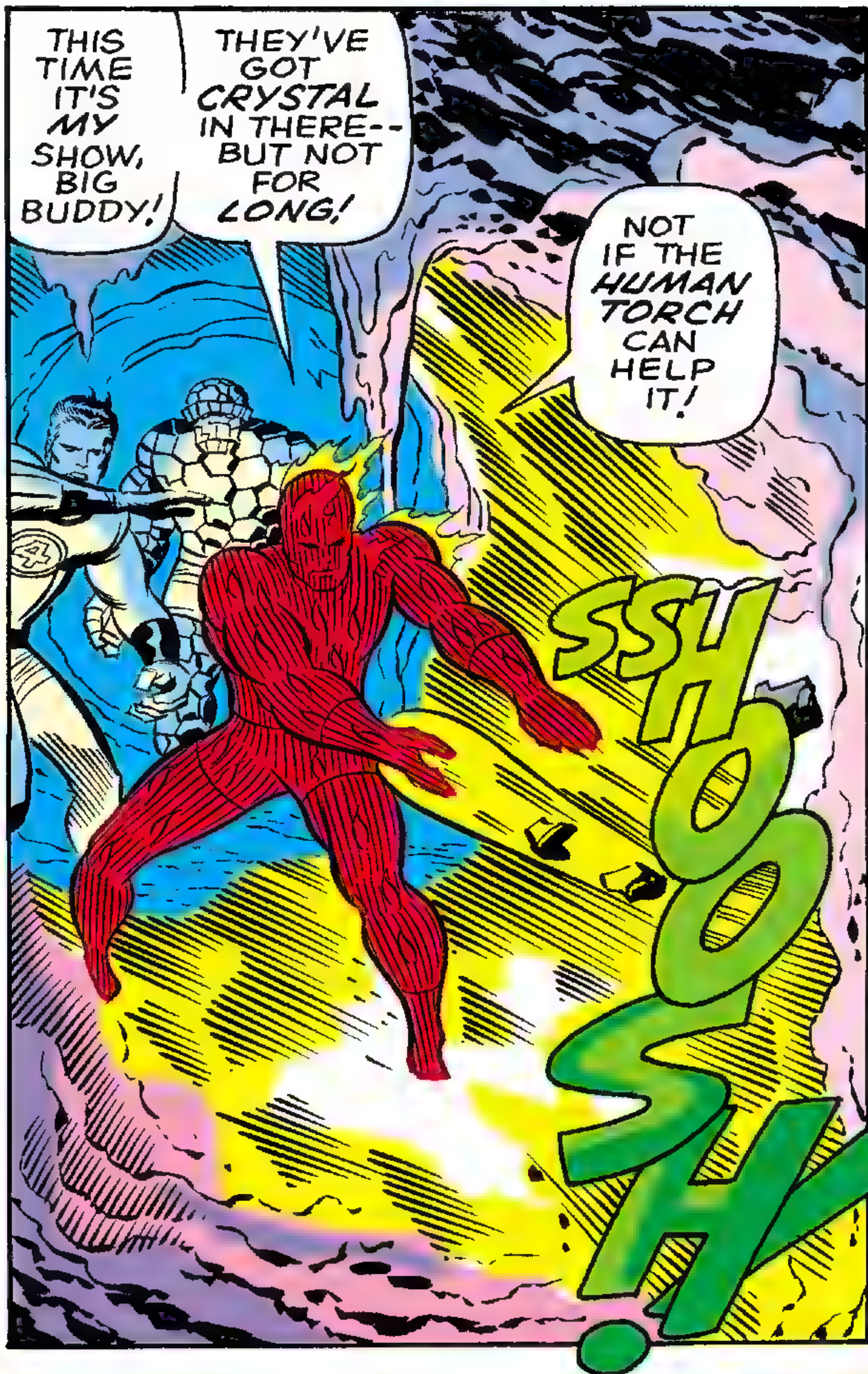
WE'VE LANDED
IN SOME SORT
OF TIGHTLY-
SEALED STEEL
CHAMBER!

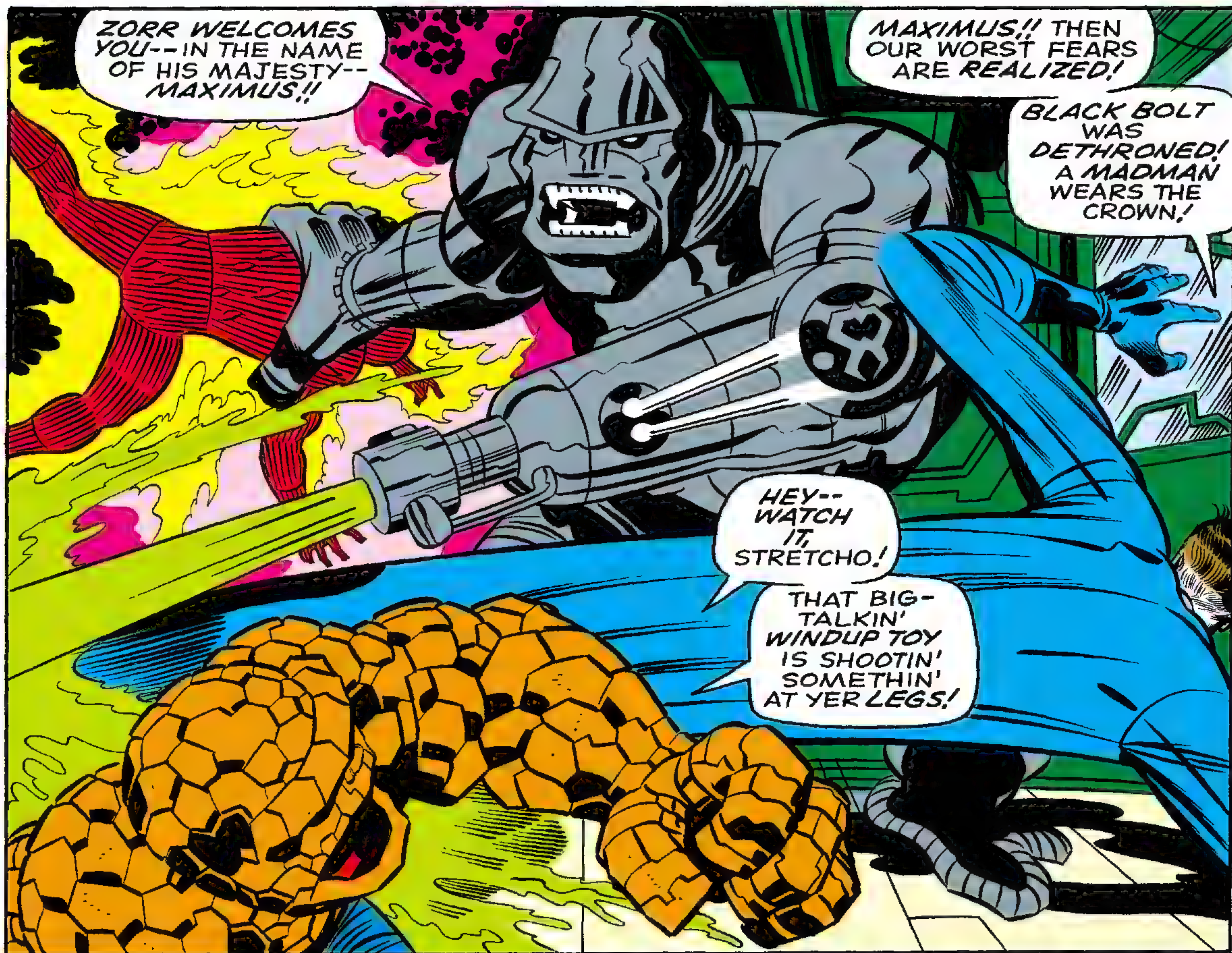
AND THIS IS
WHERE
WE'LL NEED
THAT FLAME
OF YOURS--

--TO GET
IT UN-
SEALED
--BUT
FAST!

HOWZABOUT
LETTIN' ME
GIVE IT A
COUPLE'A
GOOD
WHUMPS??

OR DO
YA JUST
KEEP ME
AROUND
FER MY
LOOKS?





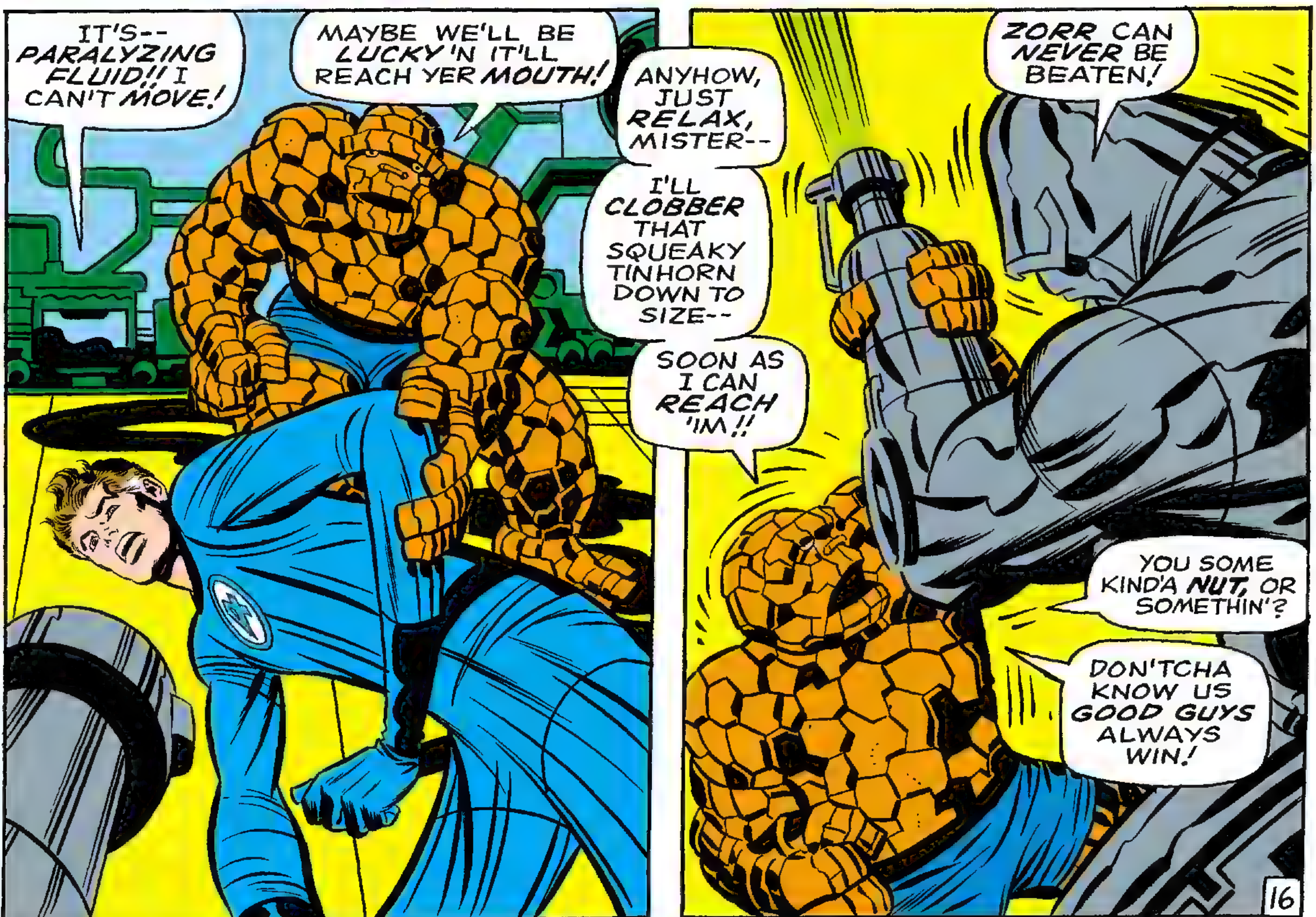
ZORR WELCOMES YOU--IN THE NAME OF HIS MAJESTY--MAXIMUS!!

MAXIMUS!! THEN OUR WORST FEARS ARE REALIZED!

BLACK BOLT WAS DETHRONED! A MADMAN WEARS THE CROWN!

HEY--WATCH IT, STRETCHO!

THAT BIG-TALKIN' WINDUP TOY IS SHOOTIN' SOMETHIN' AT YER LEGS!



IT'S--PARALYZING FLUID!! I CAN'T MOVE!

MAYBE WE'LL BE LUCKY 'N IT'LL REACH YER MOUTH!

ANYHOW, JUST RELAX, MISTER--

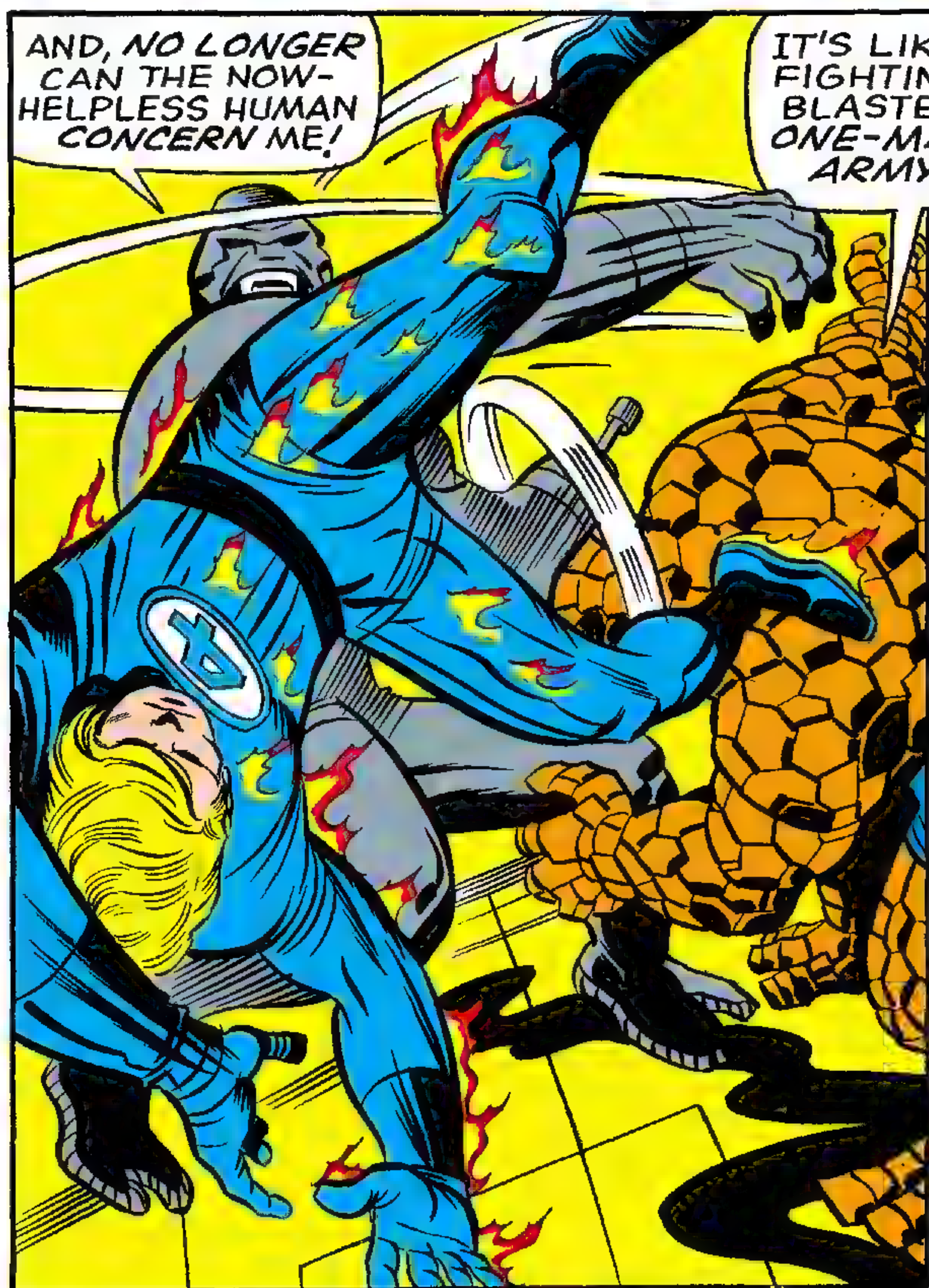
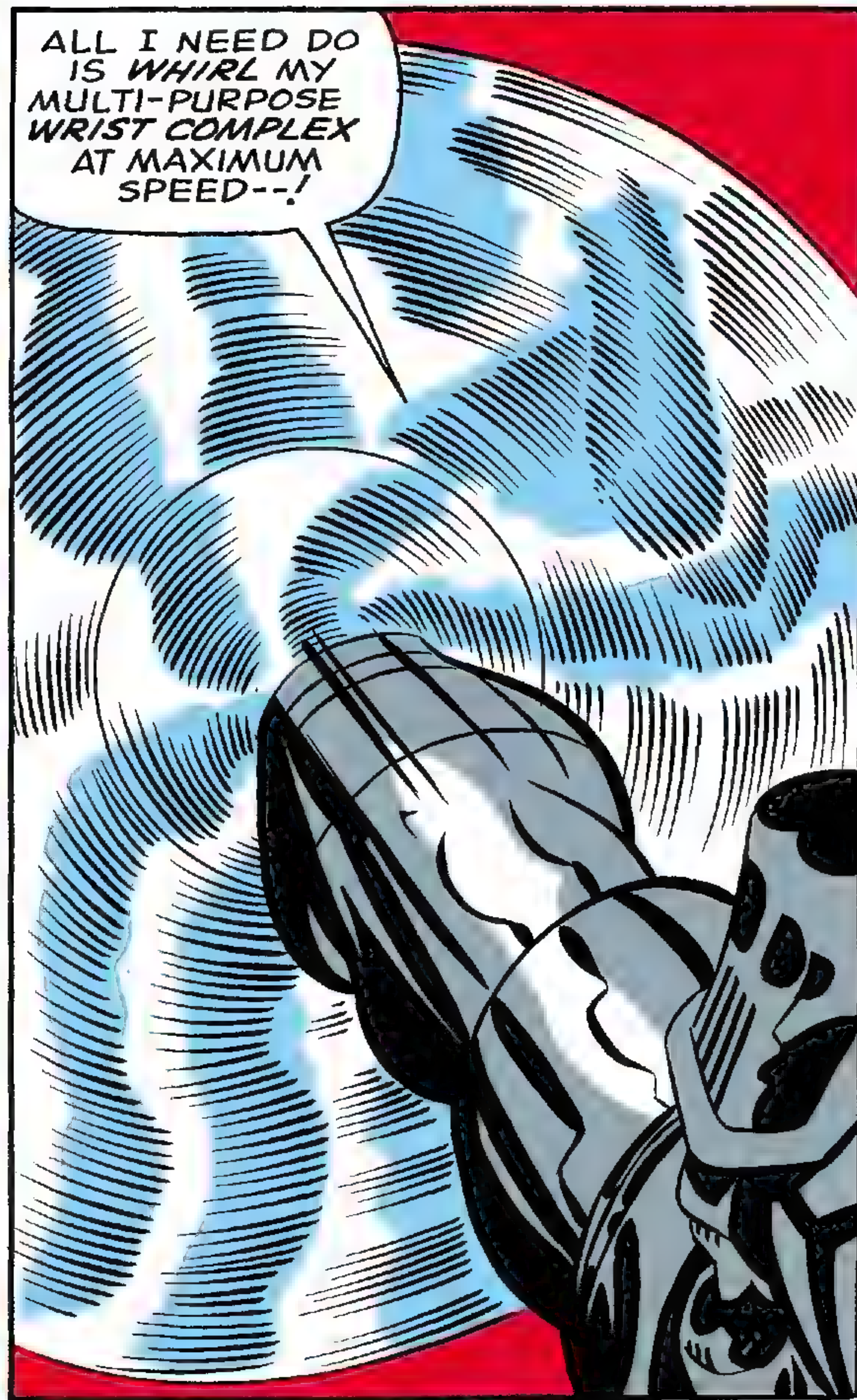
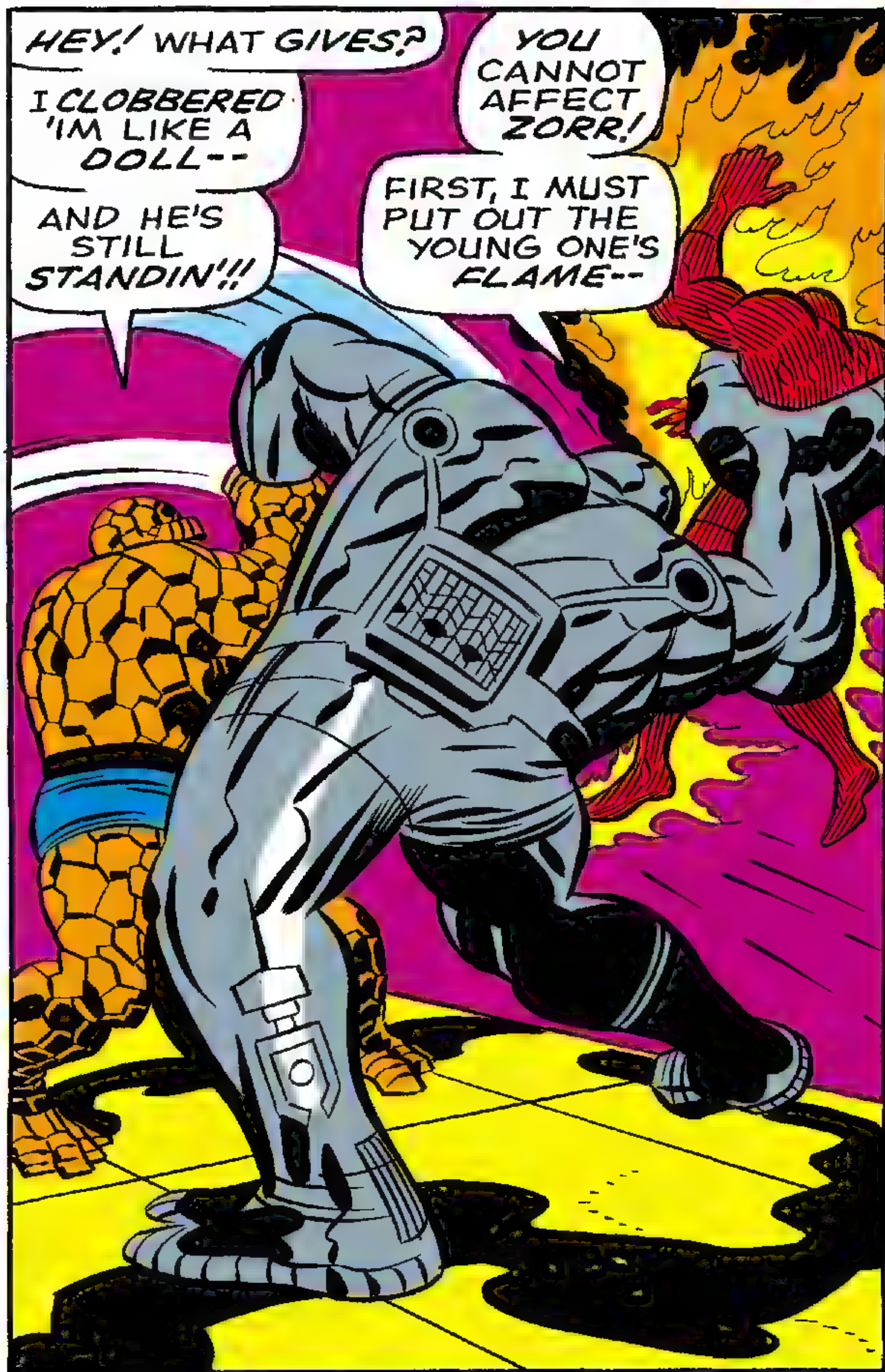
I'LL CLOBBER THAT SQUEAKY TINHORN DOWN TO SIZE--

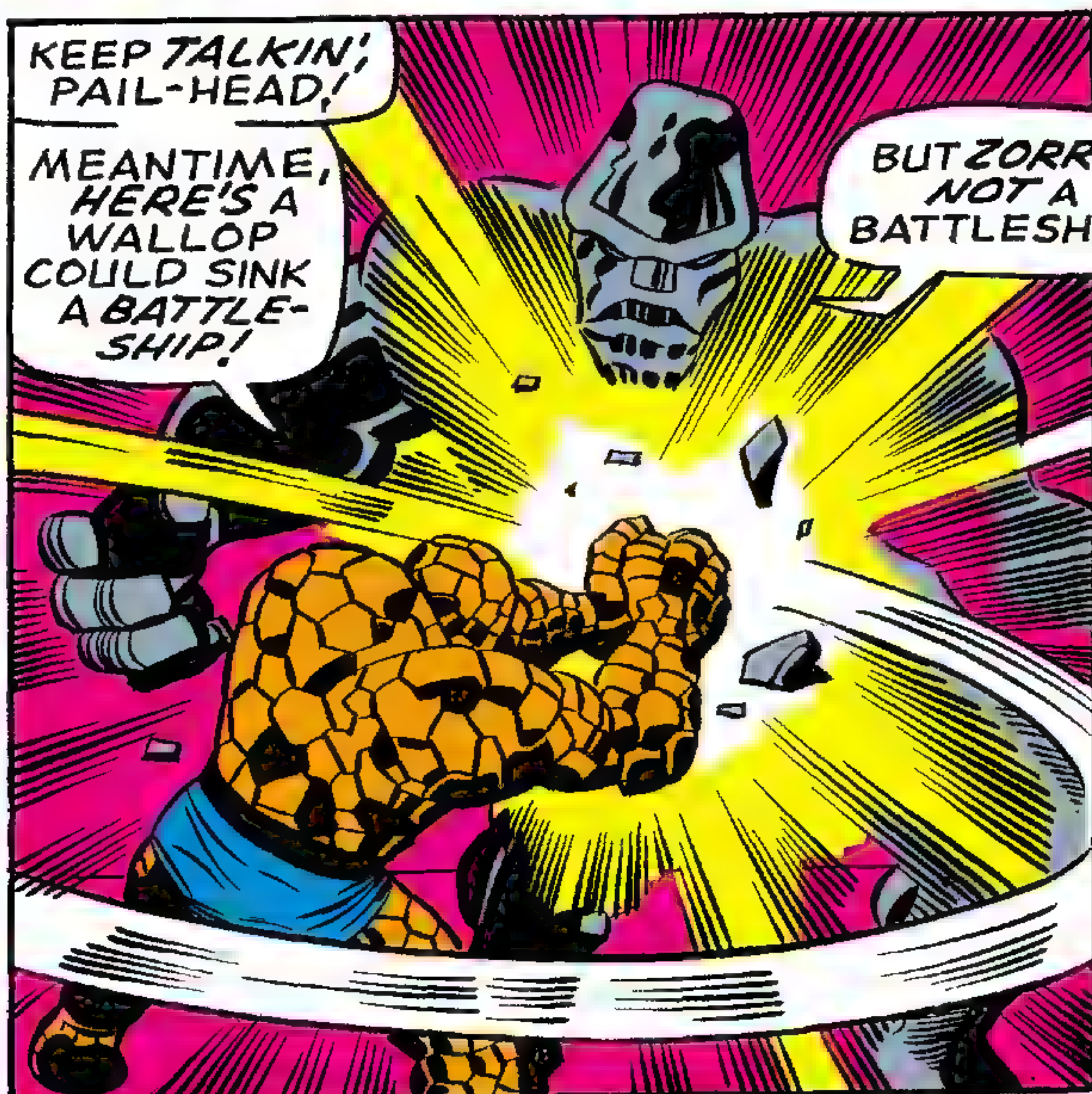
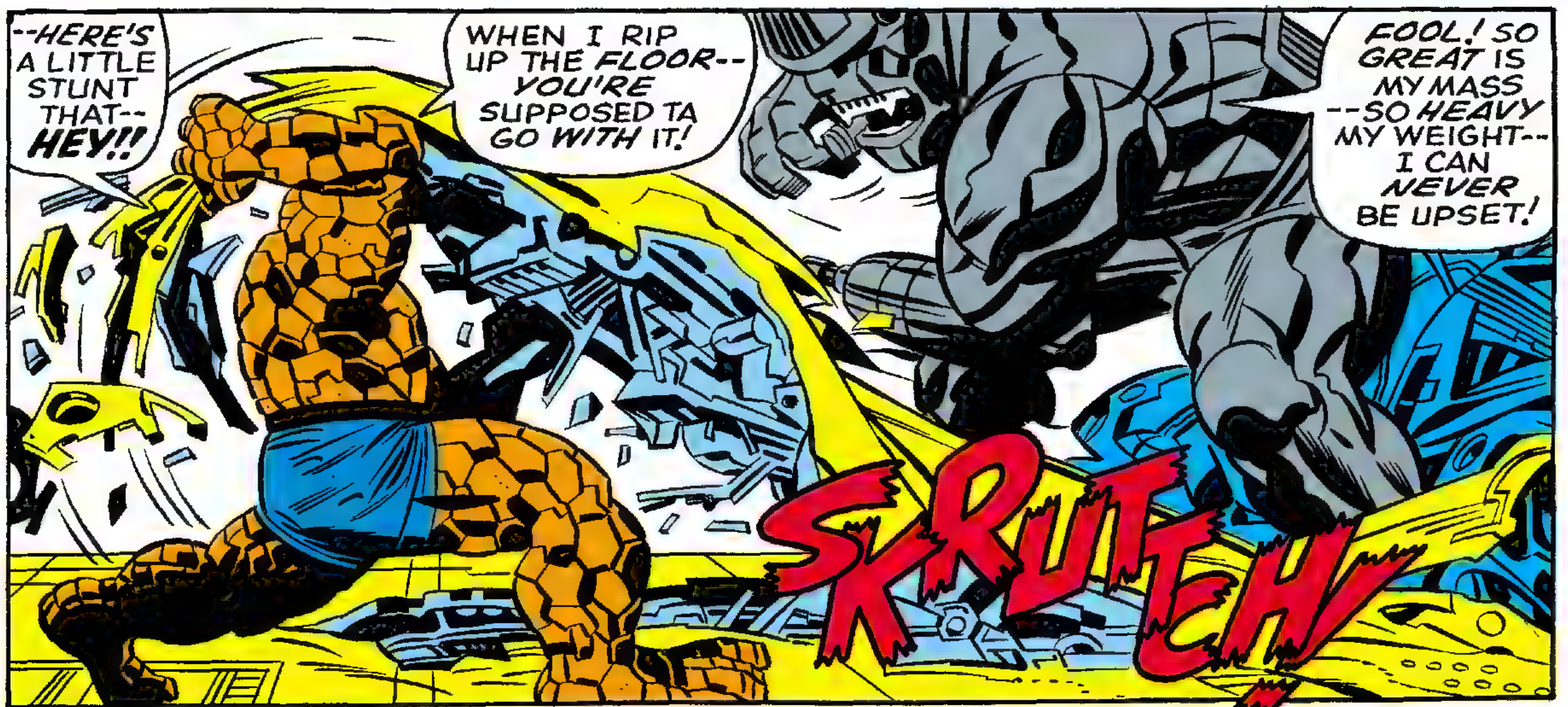
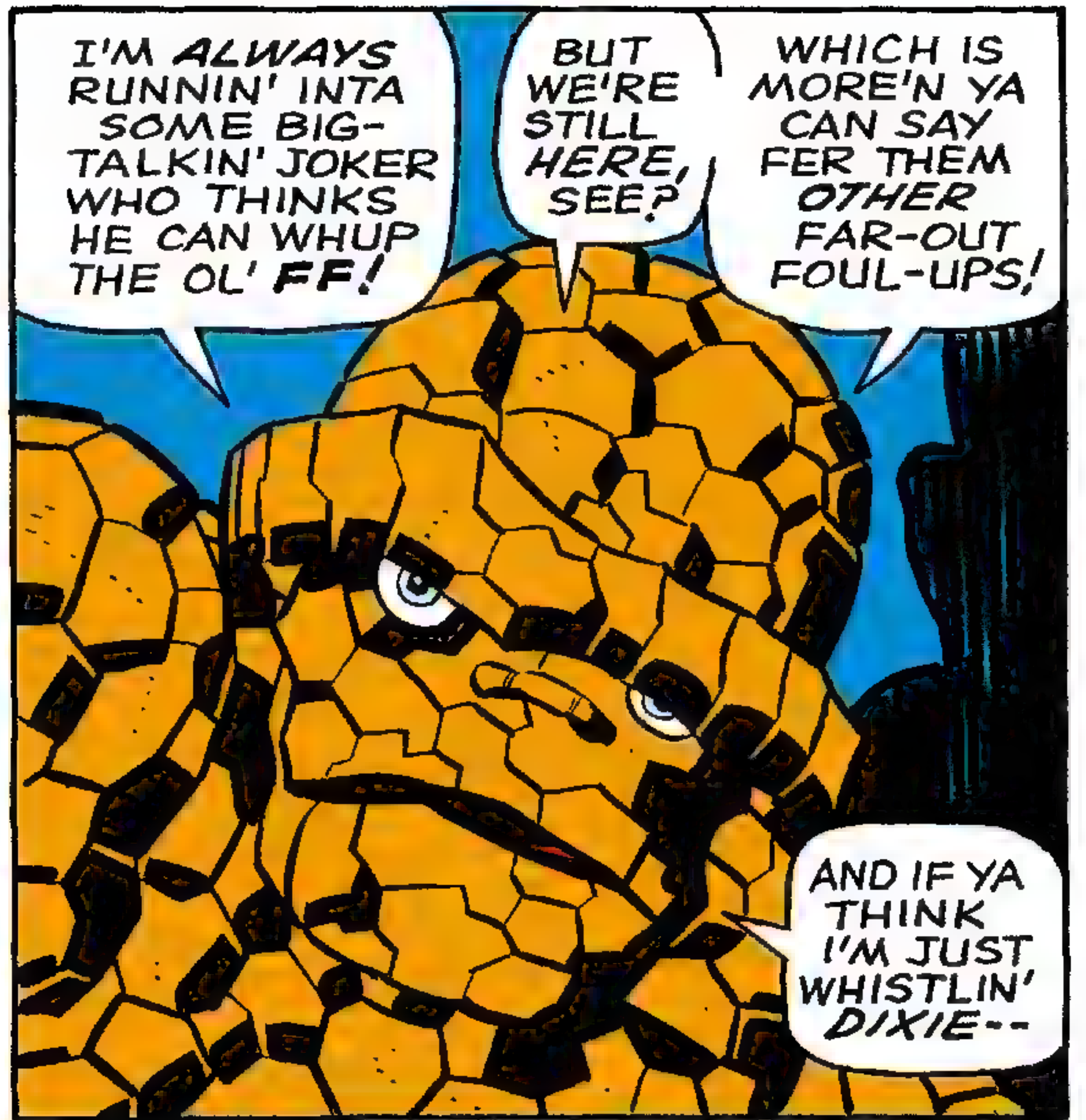
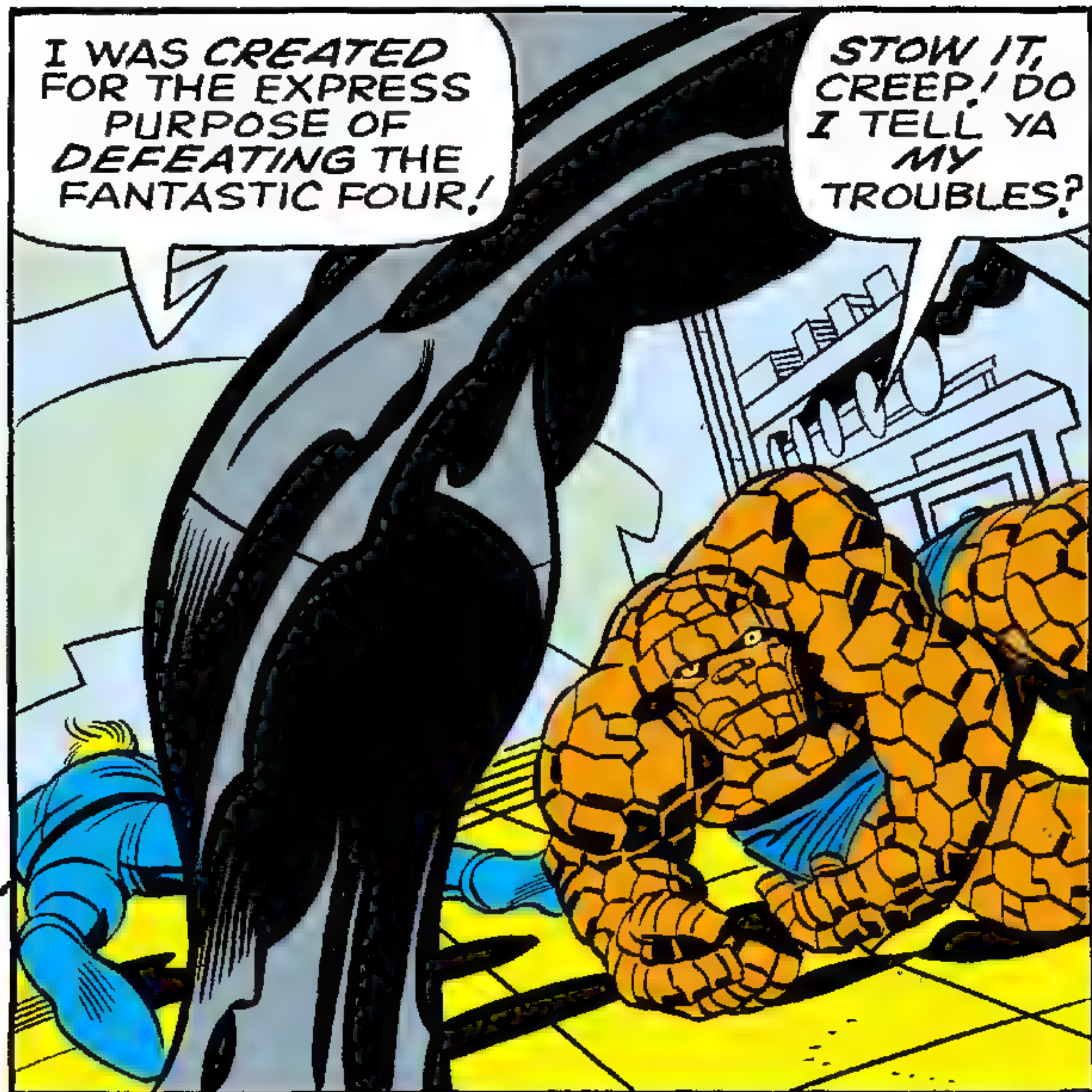
SOON AS I CAN REACH 'IM!!

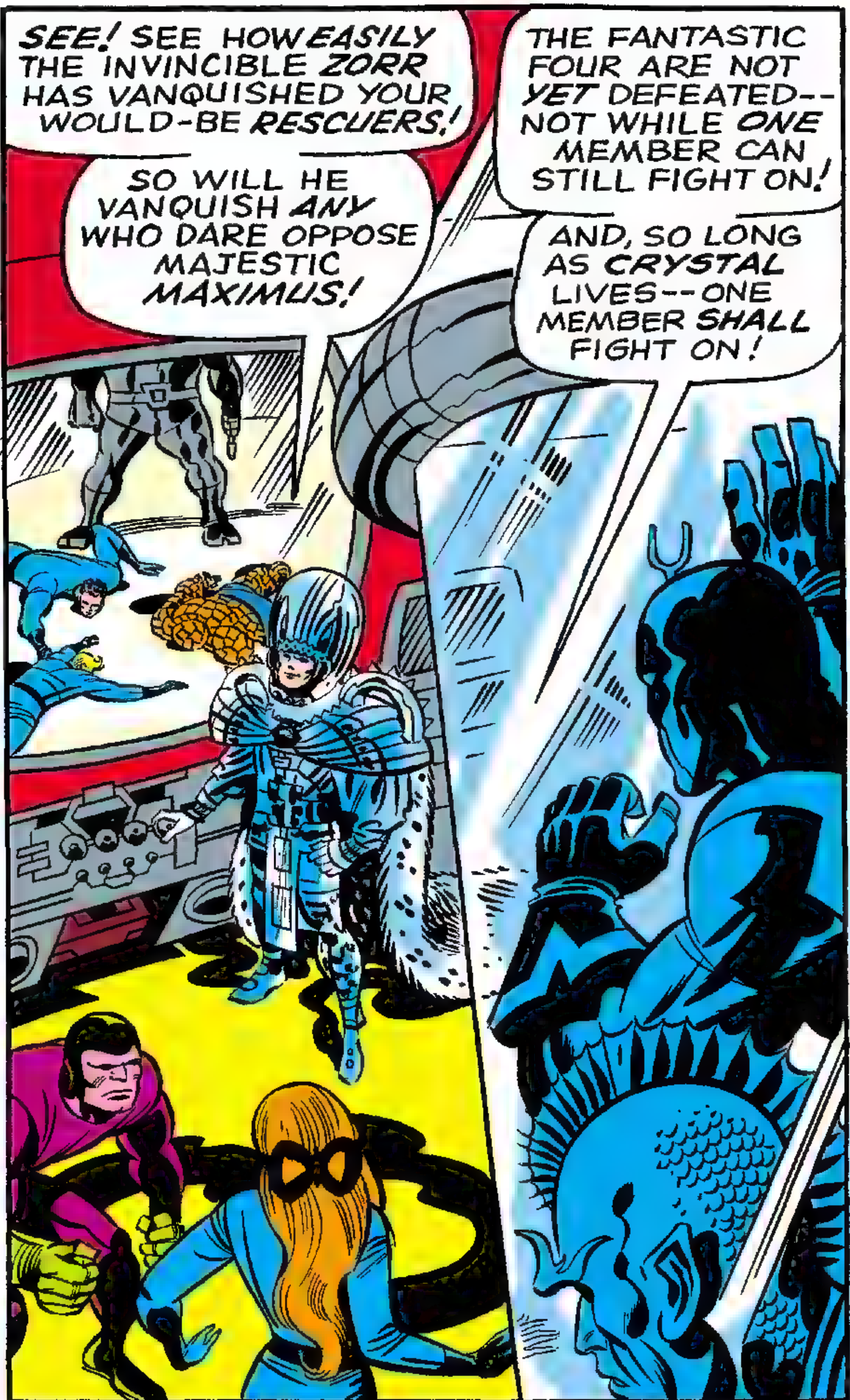
ZORR CAN NEVER BE BEATEN!

YOU SOME KINDA NUT, OR SOMETHIN'?

DON'TCHA KNOW US GOOD GUYS ALWAYS WIN!







SEE! SEE HOW EASILY THE INVINCIBLE ZORR HAS VANQUISHED YOUR WOULD-BE RESCUERS!

SO WILL HE VANQUISH ANY WHO DARE OPPOSE MAJESTIC MAXIMUS!

THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE NOT YET DEFEATED-- NOT WHILE ONE MEMBER CAN STILL FIGHT ON!

AND, SO LONG AS CRYSTAL LIVES-- ONE MEMBER SHALL FIGHT ON!



WHILE, WITHIN THE GLASSY, FORCE-FIELD PRISON CAGE--

SHE SHOULD NOT HAVE SAID THAT!

IF WE COULD BUT SHATTER THIS ACCURSED CAGE!

MAXIMUS WILL NOT STOP AT-- MURDER--IF IT SERVES HIS PURPOSE!

LET KARNAK TRY AGAIN--!

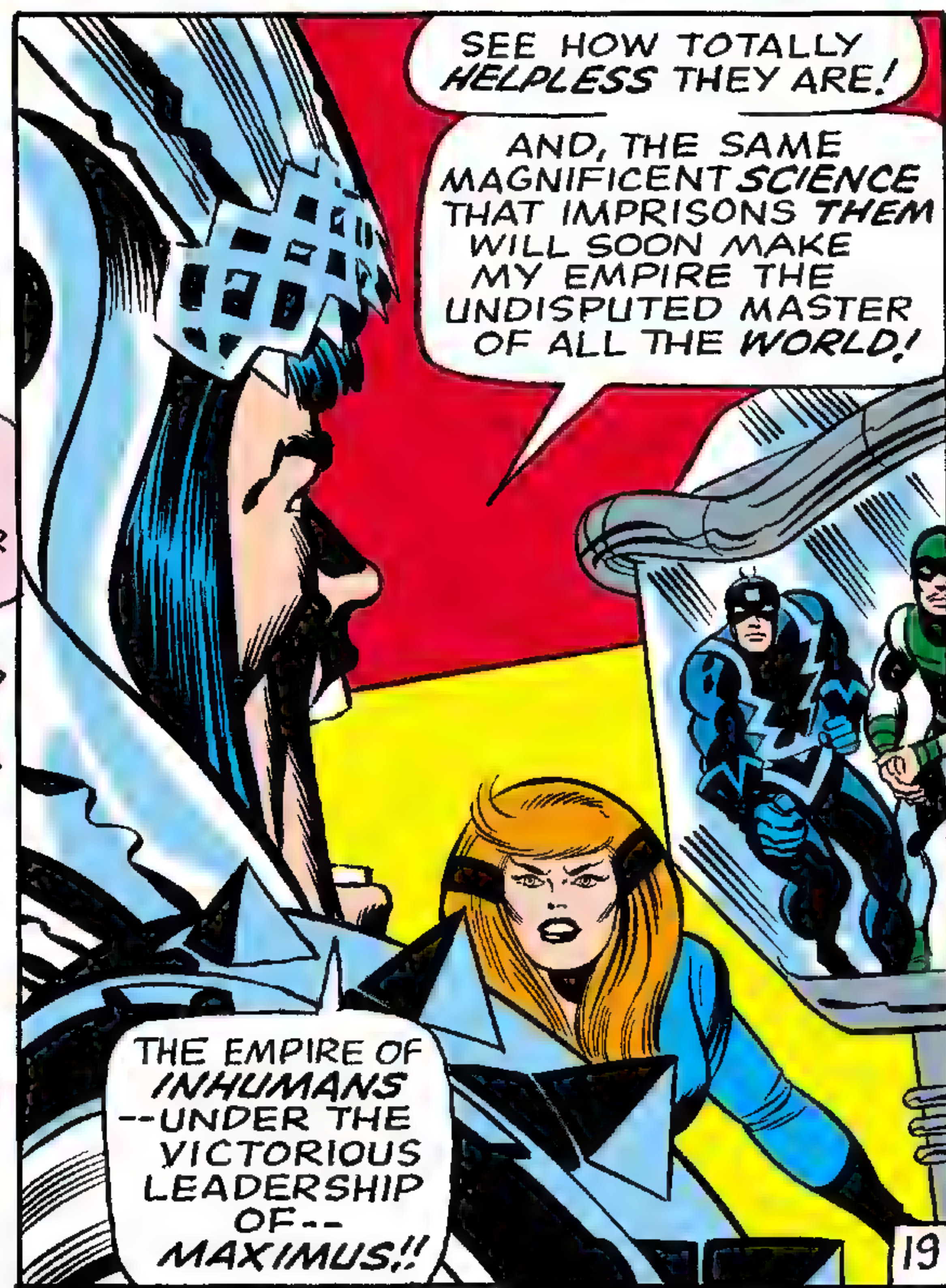


BUT, NOT EVEN THE GREATEST, SUPER-POWERED MASTER OF KARATE WHO EVER LIVED CAN MAKE A DENT IN THE HAND-WORK OF MAXIMUS--!!

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE!

THE SUBSTANCE IS LIKE NONE OTHER ON EARTH!

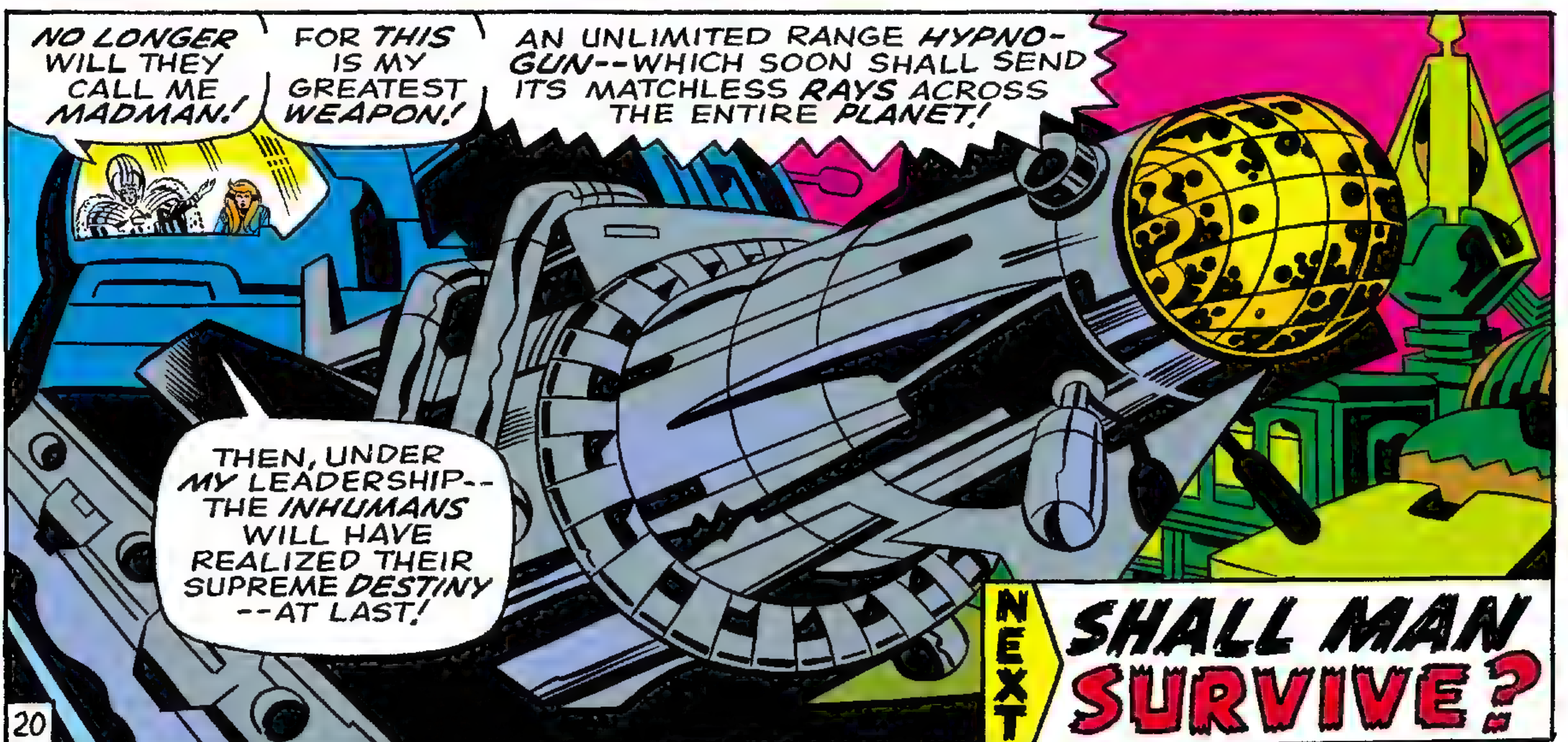
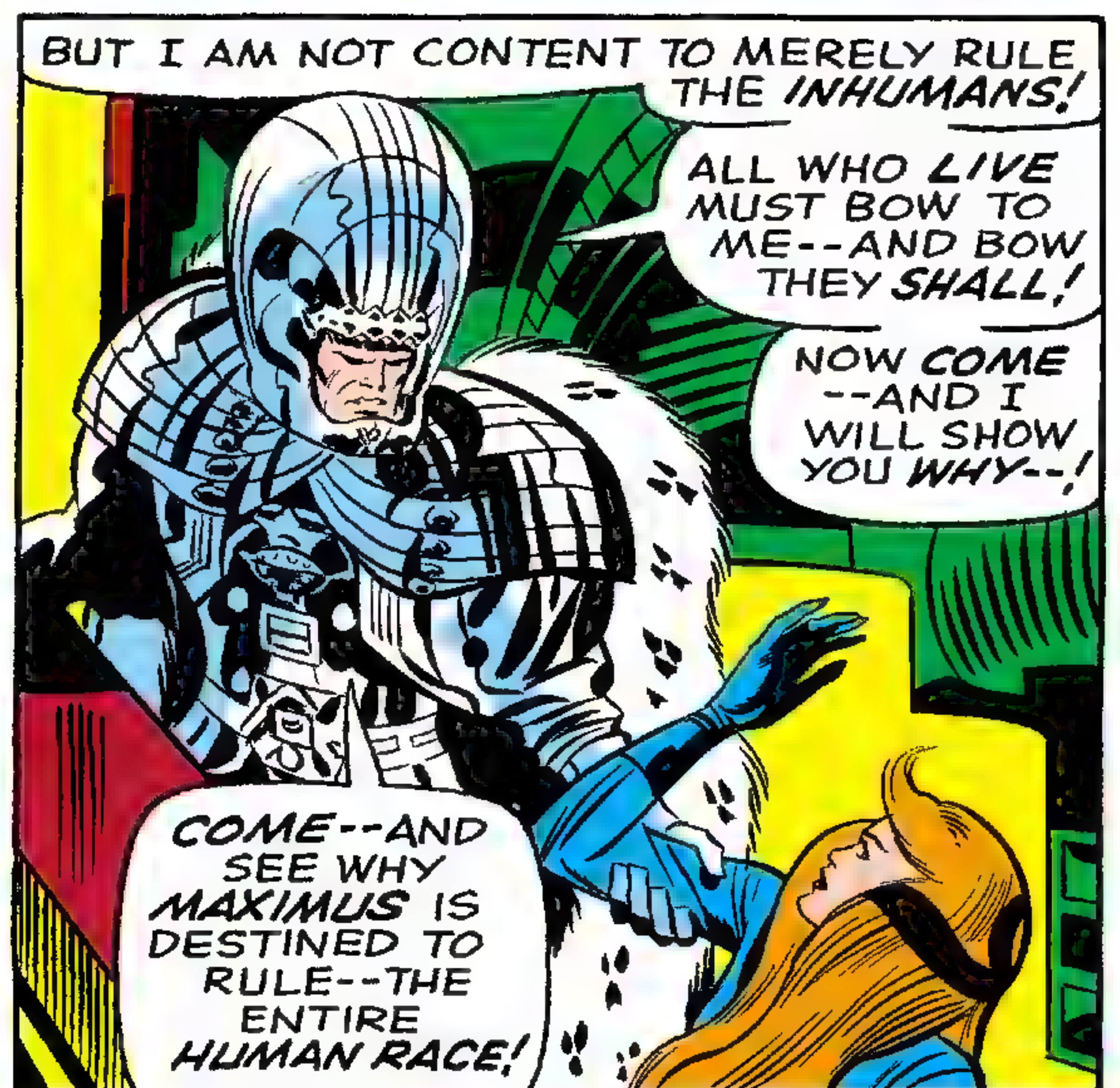
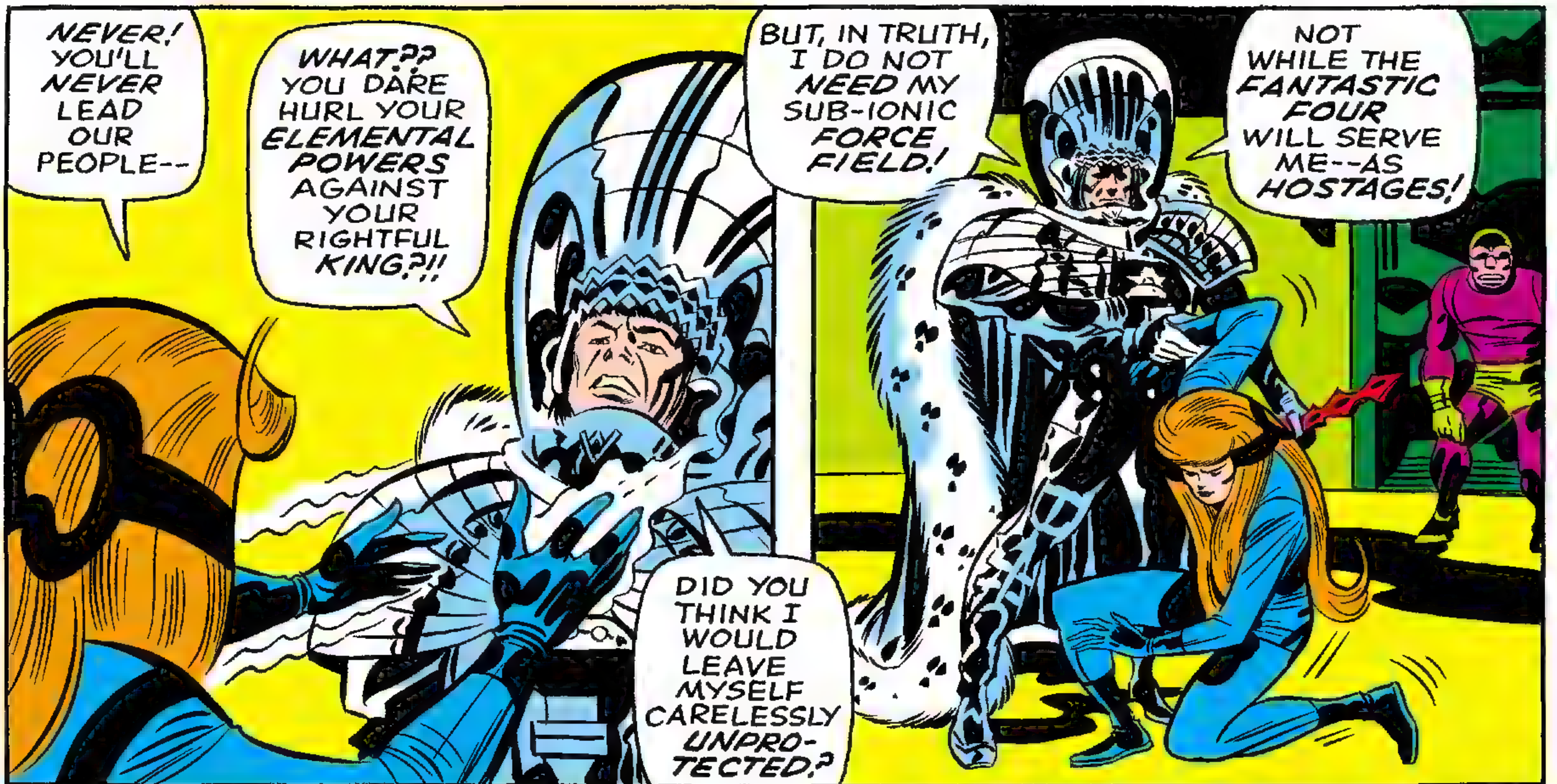
IT CANNOT BE SHATTERED!



SEE HOW TOTALLY HELPLESS THEY ARE!

AND, THE SAME MAGNIFICENT SCIENCE THAT IMPRISONS THEM WILL SOON MAKE MY EMPIRE THE UNDISPUTED MASTER OF ALL THE WORLD!

THE EMPIRE OF INHUMANS --UNDER THE VICTORIOUS LEADERSHIP OF-- MAXIMUS!!



THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

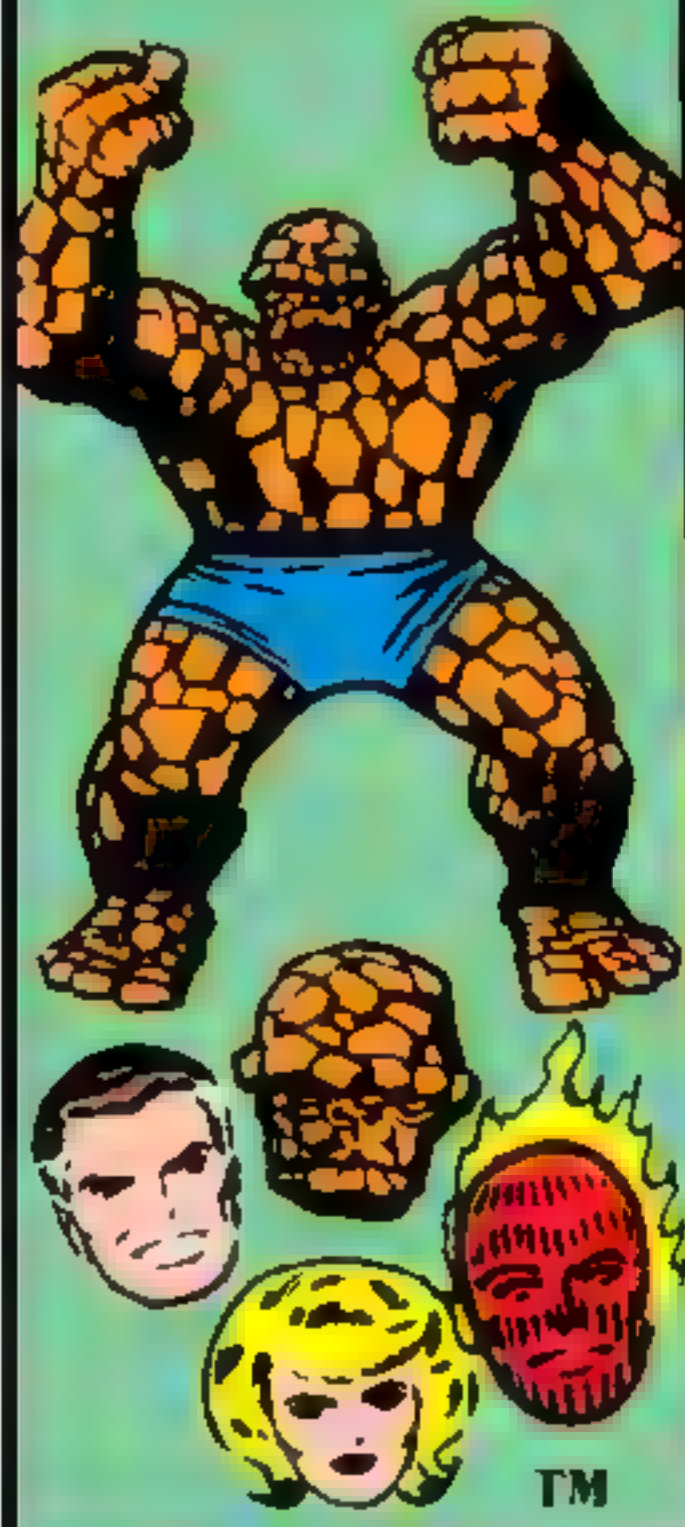
FANTASTIC
FOUR

12¢
IND.

83
FEB

Fantastic FOUR™

SHALL
MAN
SURVIVE?



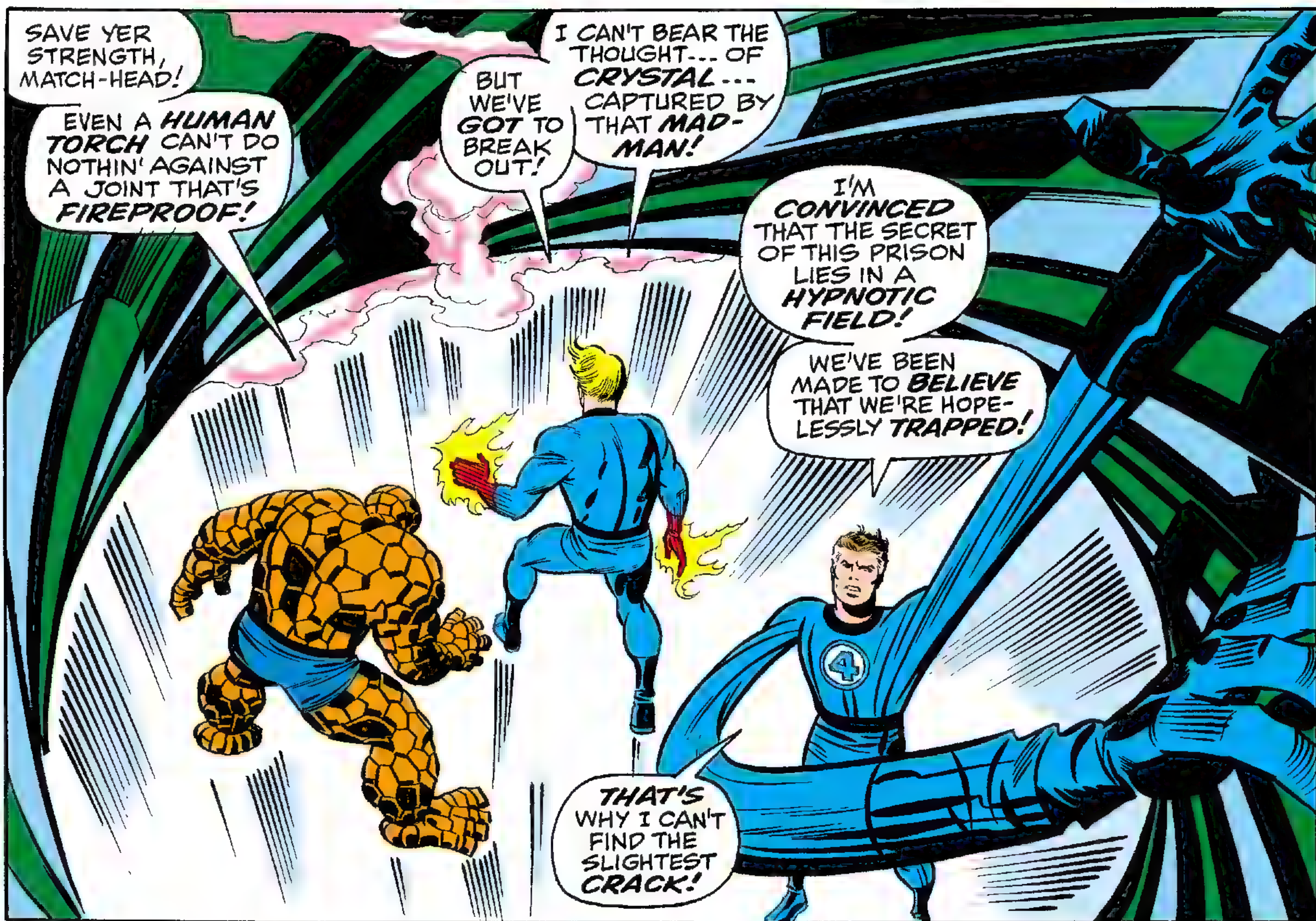
MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

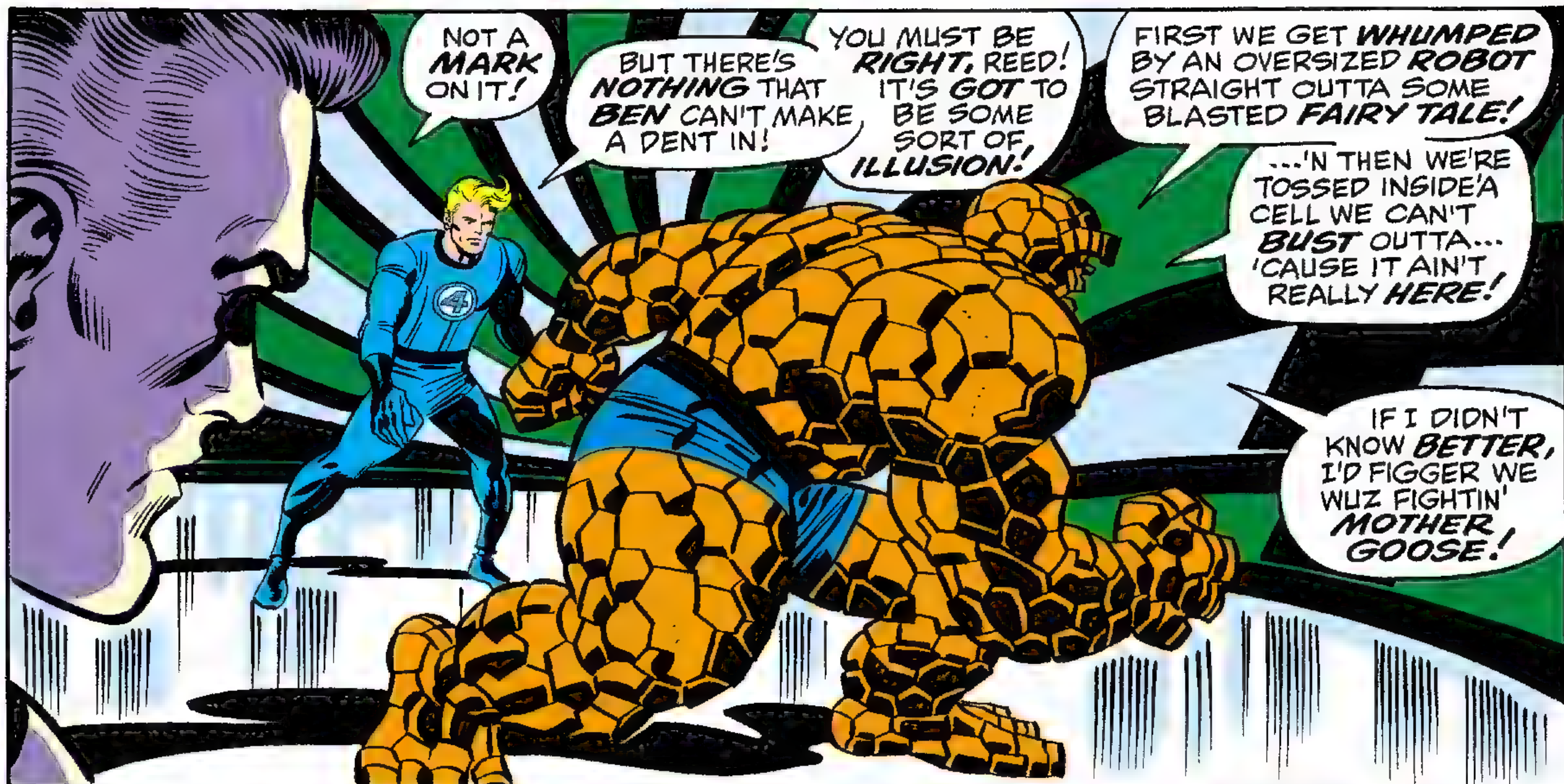


IF THE **F.F.** FAIL, THE **INHUMANS** MUST THEN DECIDE..

SHALL MAN SURVIVE?







NOT A
MARK
ON IT!

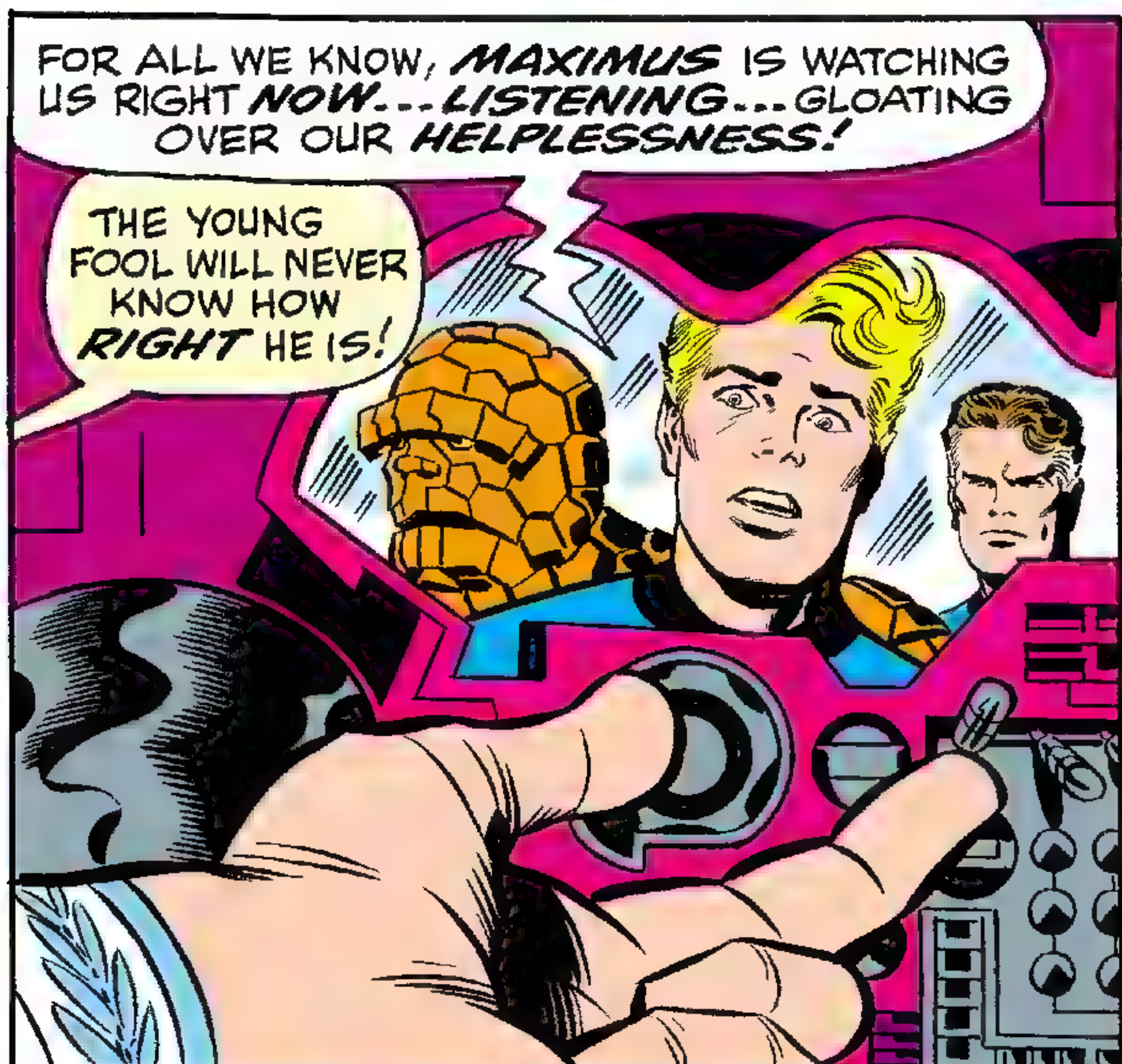
BUT THERE'S
NOTHING THAT
BEN CAN'T MAKE
A DENT IN!

YOU MUST BE
RIGHT, REED!
IT'S GOT TO
BE SOME
SORT OF
ILLUSION!

FIRST WE GET **WHUMPED**
BY AN OVERSIZED **ROBOT**
STRAIGHT OUTTA SOME
BLASTED **FAIRY TALE!**

...N THEN WE'RE
TOSSED INSIDE A
CELL WE CAN'T
BUST OUTTA...
'CAUSE IT AIN'T
REALLY **HERE!**

IF I DIDN'T
KNOW **BETTER,**
I'D FIGGER WE
WUZ FIGHTIN'
MOTHER
GOOSE!



FOR ALL WE KNOW, **MAXIMUS** IS WATCHING
US RIGHT **NOW...** LISTENING... GLOATING
OVER OUR **HELPLESSNESS!**

THE YOUNG
FOOL WILL NEVER
KNOW HOW
RIGHT HE IS!



SIRE! WHAT SHALL WE
DO WITH ALL THOSE
WHOM YOU HAVE
IMPRISONED?

NOTHING!
DO **NOTHING**
WITH THEM!

THE LONGER
THEY WAIT,
AND **WON-**
DER... THE
GREATER
WILL BE
THEIR
ANGUISH!

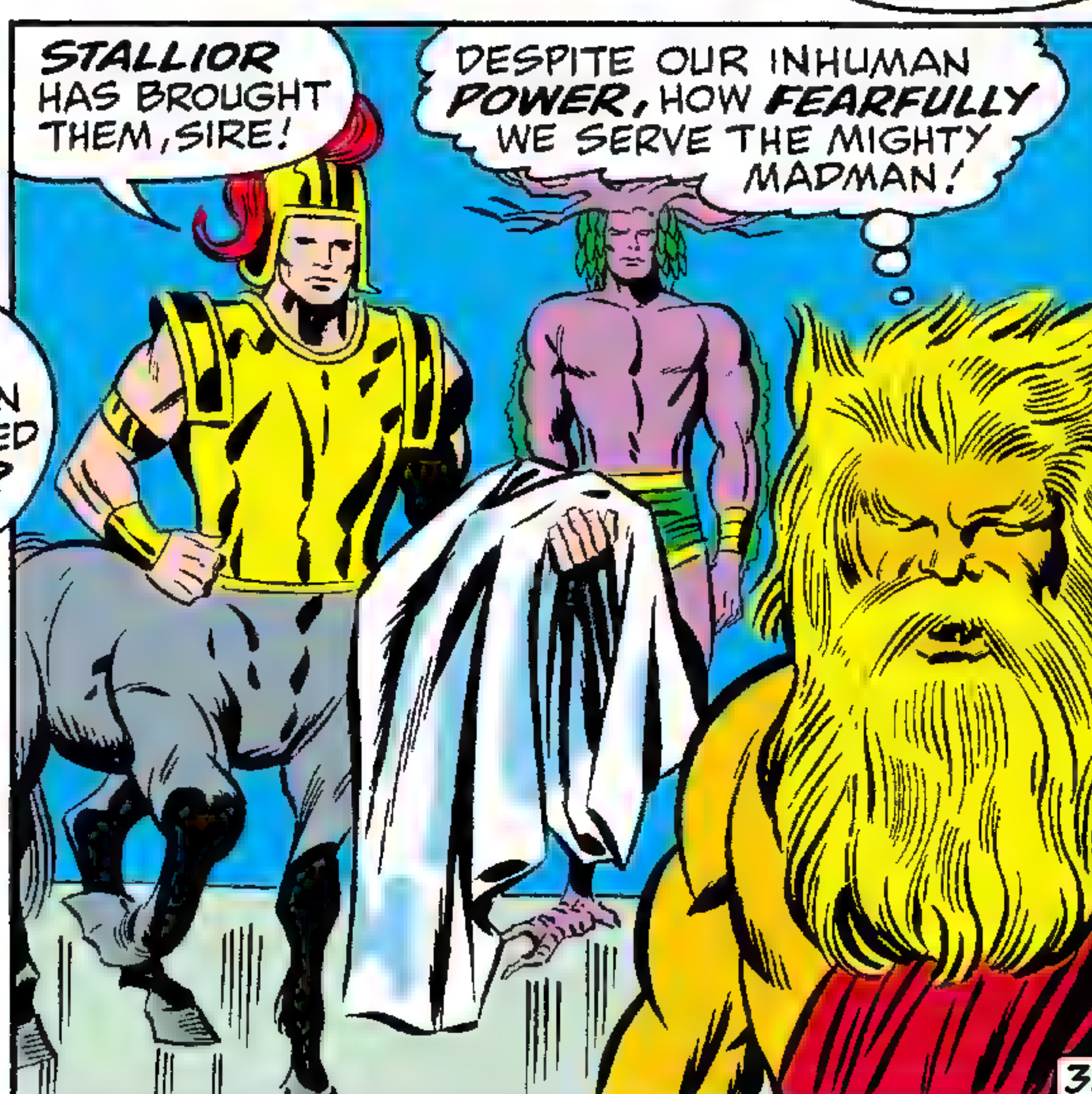
AND NOW
...TO THE
BATHS!



I MUST BE CERTAIN
TO LOOK MY **BEST...**
FOR THE **CORONATION!**

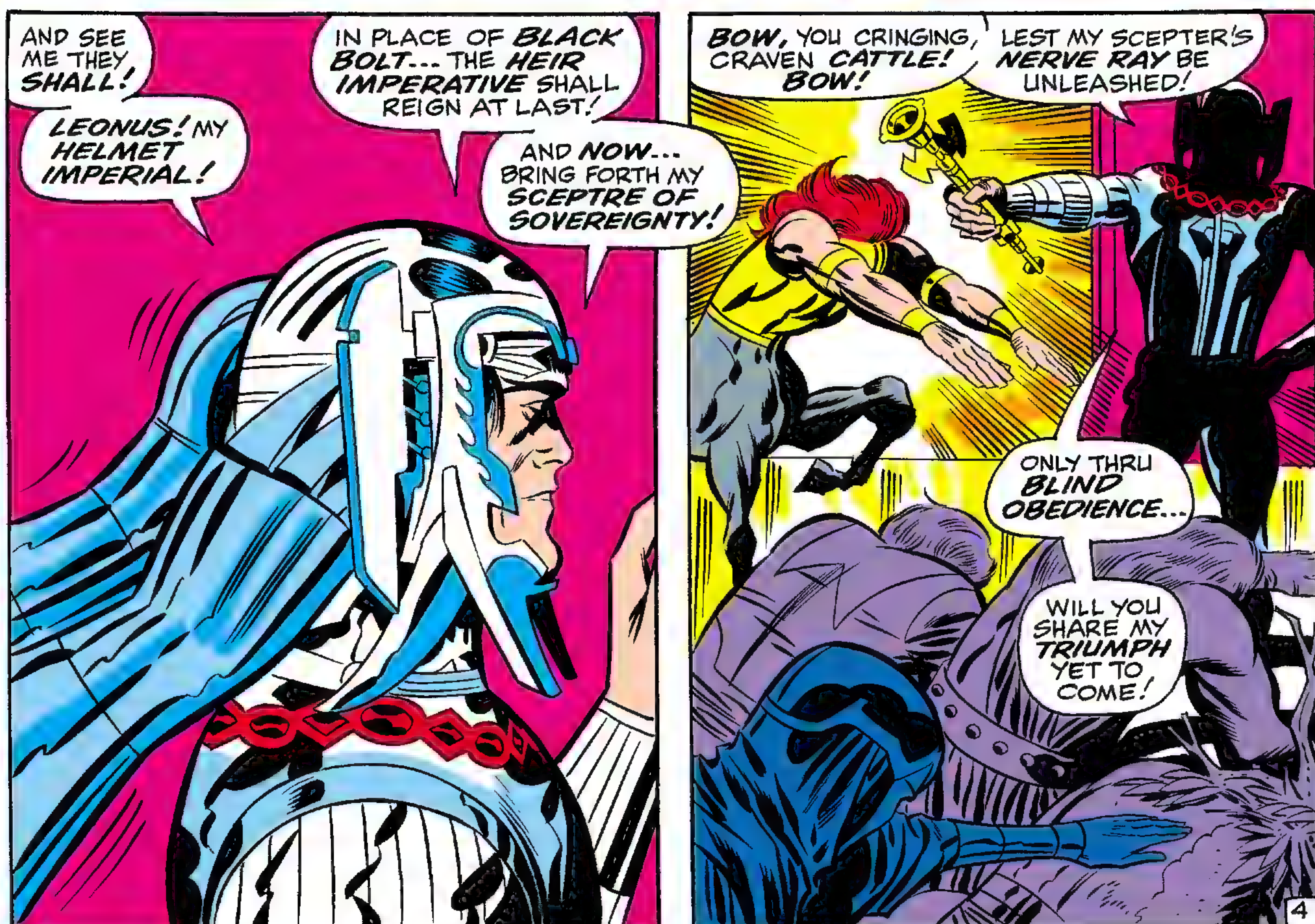
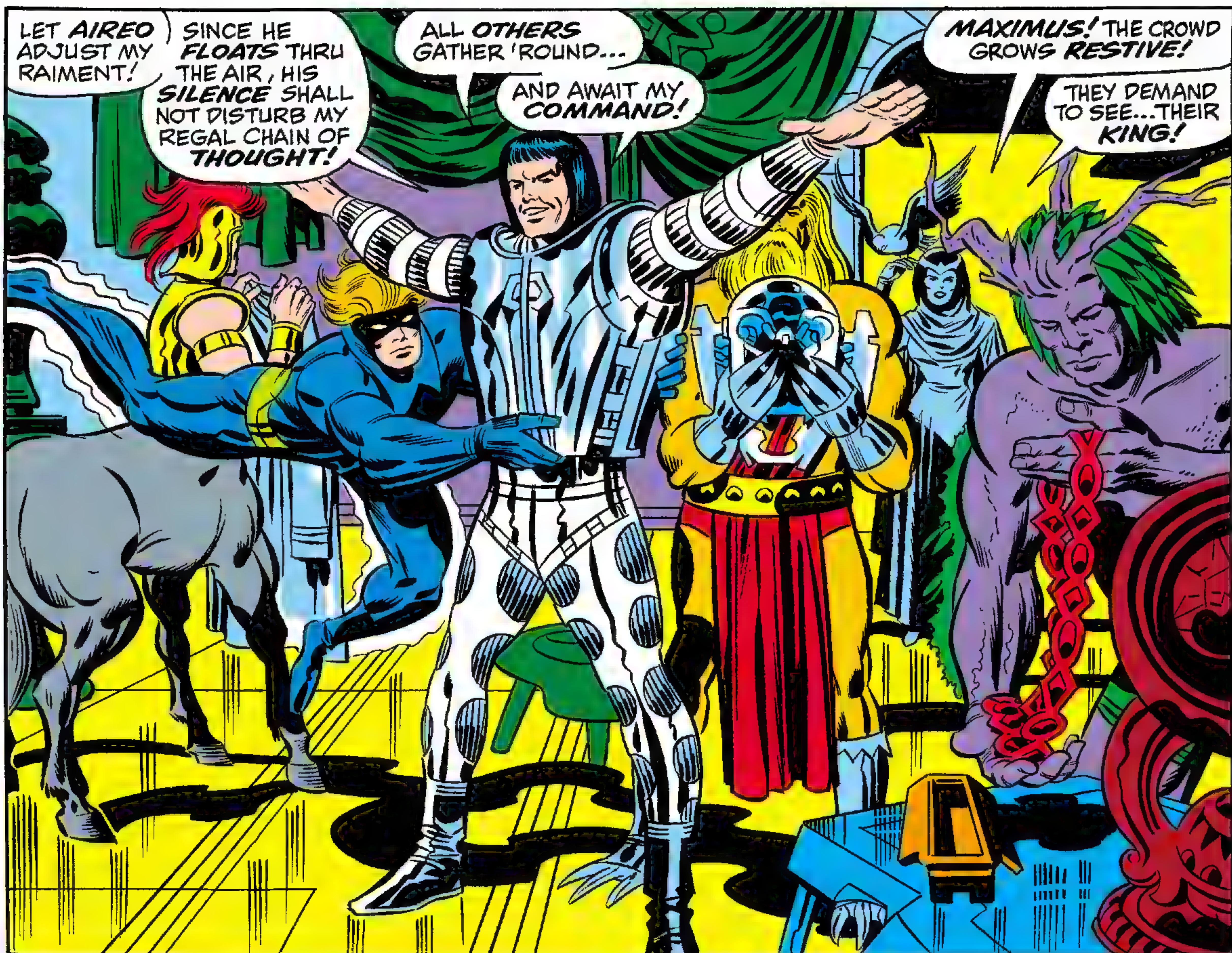
FOR THE
SUPREME
MOMENT WHEN
I AM PROCLAIMED
...**EMPEROR**
ETERNAL!

MY
ROBES!
BRING ME
MY **ROBES!**



STALLIOR
HAS BROUGHT
THEM, **SIRE!**

DESPITE OUR INHUMAN
POWER, HOW **FEARFULLY**
WE SERVE THE MIGHTY
MADMAN!



FOR, AT THE MOMENT
WHEN I AM PROCLAIMED...
EMPEROR ETERNAL...

I SHALL GIVE THE
MOST **MOMENTOUS**
COMMAND OF ALL...

I SHALL BLANKET
ALL MANKIND
...WITH THE GIANT
HYPNO-GUN!!

AND, AT
THE MOMENT
MY **INVINCIBLE**
WEAPON IS THUS
UNLEASHED...

ALL WHO **WALK...**
OR **SWIM...** OR **CRAWL**
...UPON THE SURFACE OF
EARTH... SHALL BE
MINE TO COMMAND...
FOREVER!

**BUT WHAT OF THE CAPTIVE, SPEECHLESS
BLACK BOLT, AND HIS FELLOW INHUMANS...??**

ONLY THE POWER OF
HIS **VOICE** CAN FREE
THEM... BUT BLACK BOLT
DARES NOT SPEAK!

AND YET HE
**MUST... HE
MUST... BEFORE
IT'S TOO LATE!**

IT COULD
MEAN... THE
**DEATH OF
US ALL!**

BUT, IT IS
FOR **BLACK
BOLT... MY
BELOVED...
TO DECIDE!**

WE HAVE **TRIED...**
AND **FAILED...** TO
WIN OUR FREEDOM!

ONLY **YOU** CAN
DO IT, BLACK
BOLT!

YOU CAN
DELAY **NO
LONGER!**
THERE IS
**TOO MUCH
AT STAKE!**

OUR LIVES MEAN
NOTHING! WE
SACRIFICE THEM
WITHOUT A **THOUGHT!**

ALL THAT
MATTERS IS...
THAT **YOU**
ESCAPE... TO
REGAIN THE
THRONE!

HE
GIVES THE
**NOD OF
ASSENT!**

**BLACK BOLT
WILL SPEAK!**

SEE HOW HE **CON-
CENTRATES...** STRIVING
FOR THE MOST DELICATE
CONTROL!

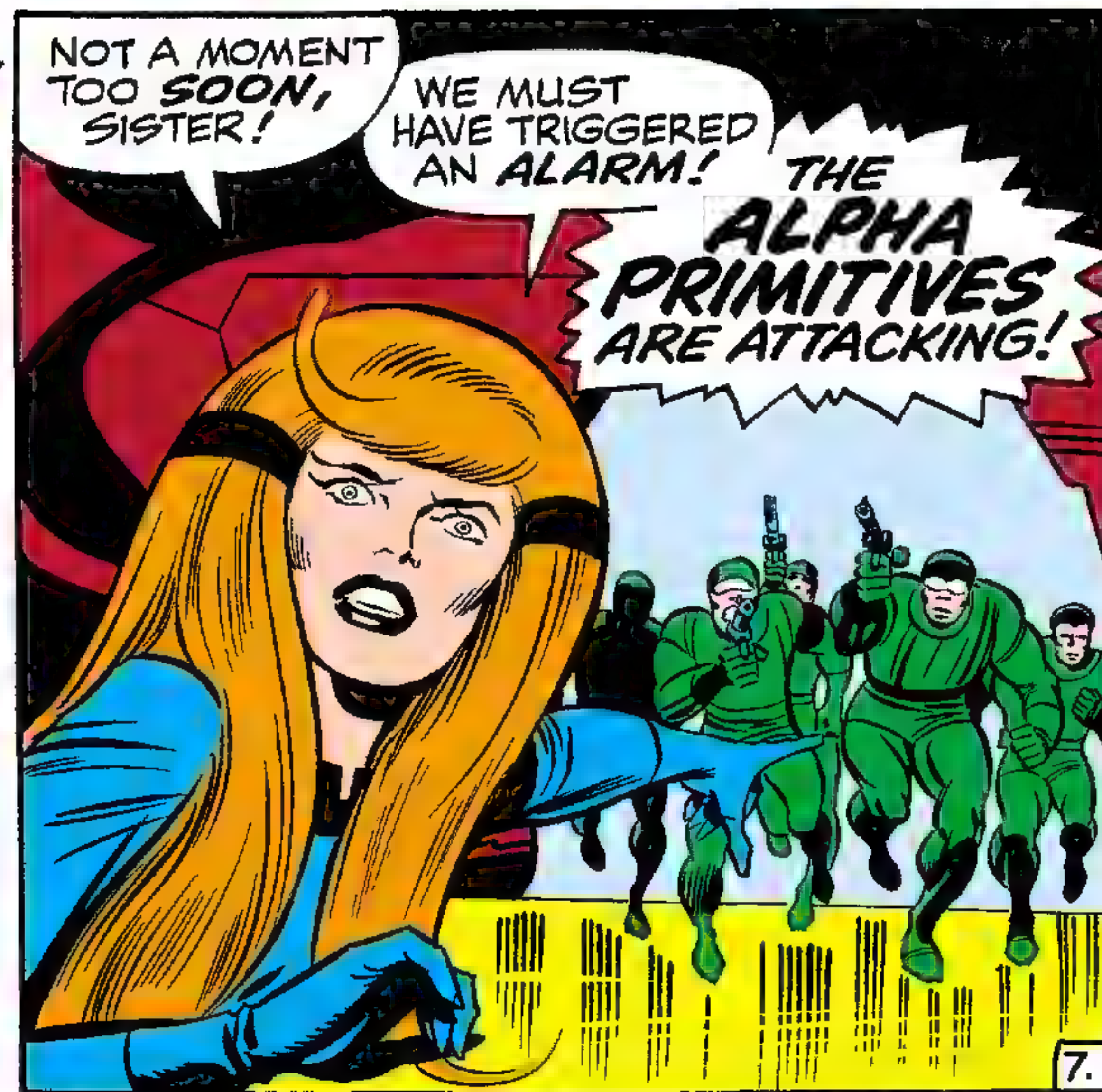
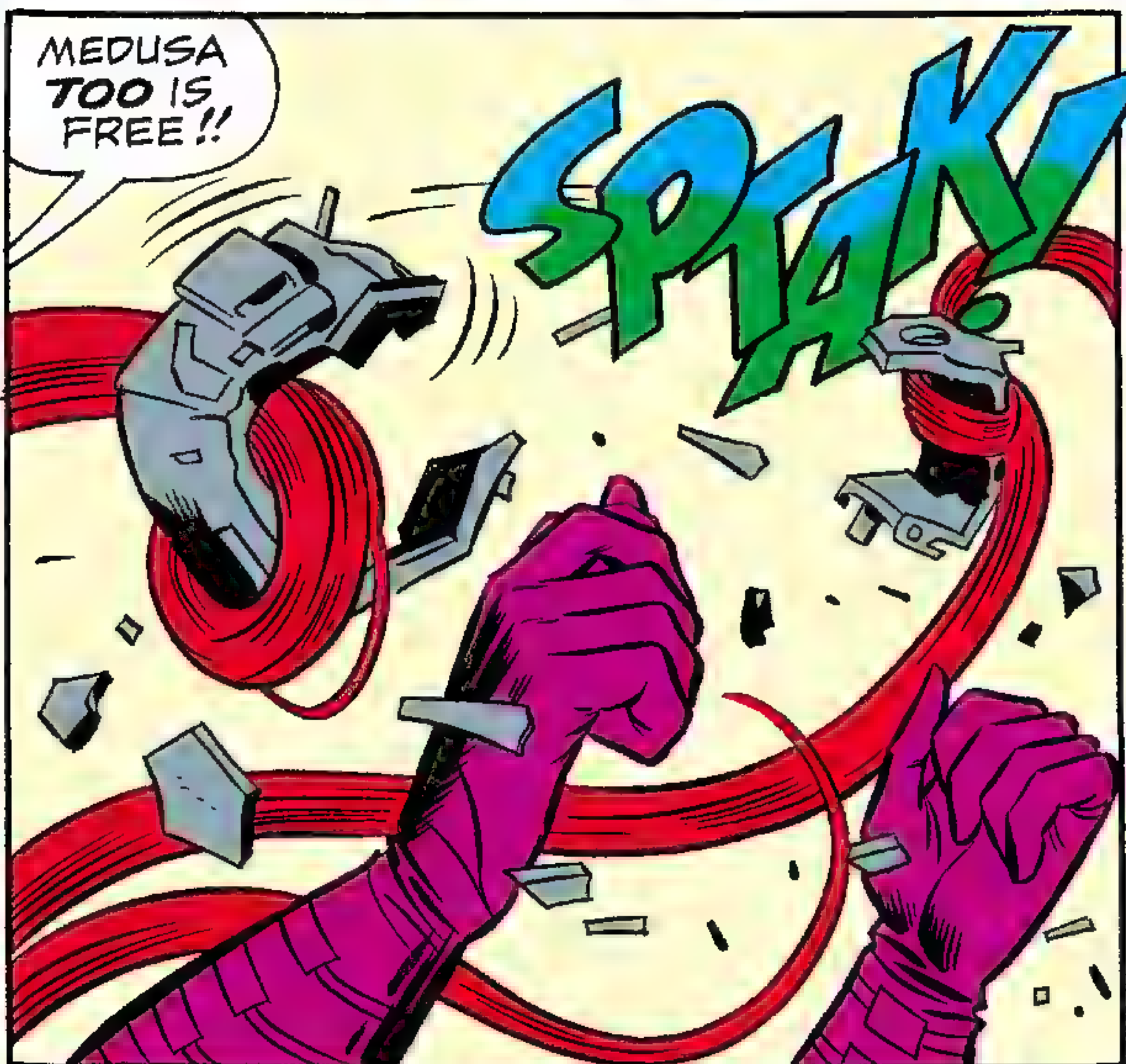
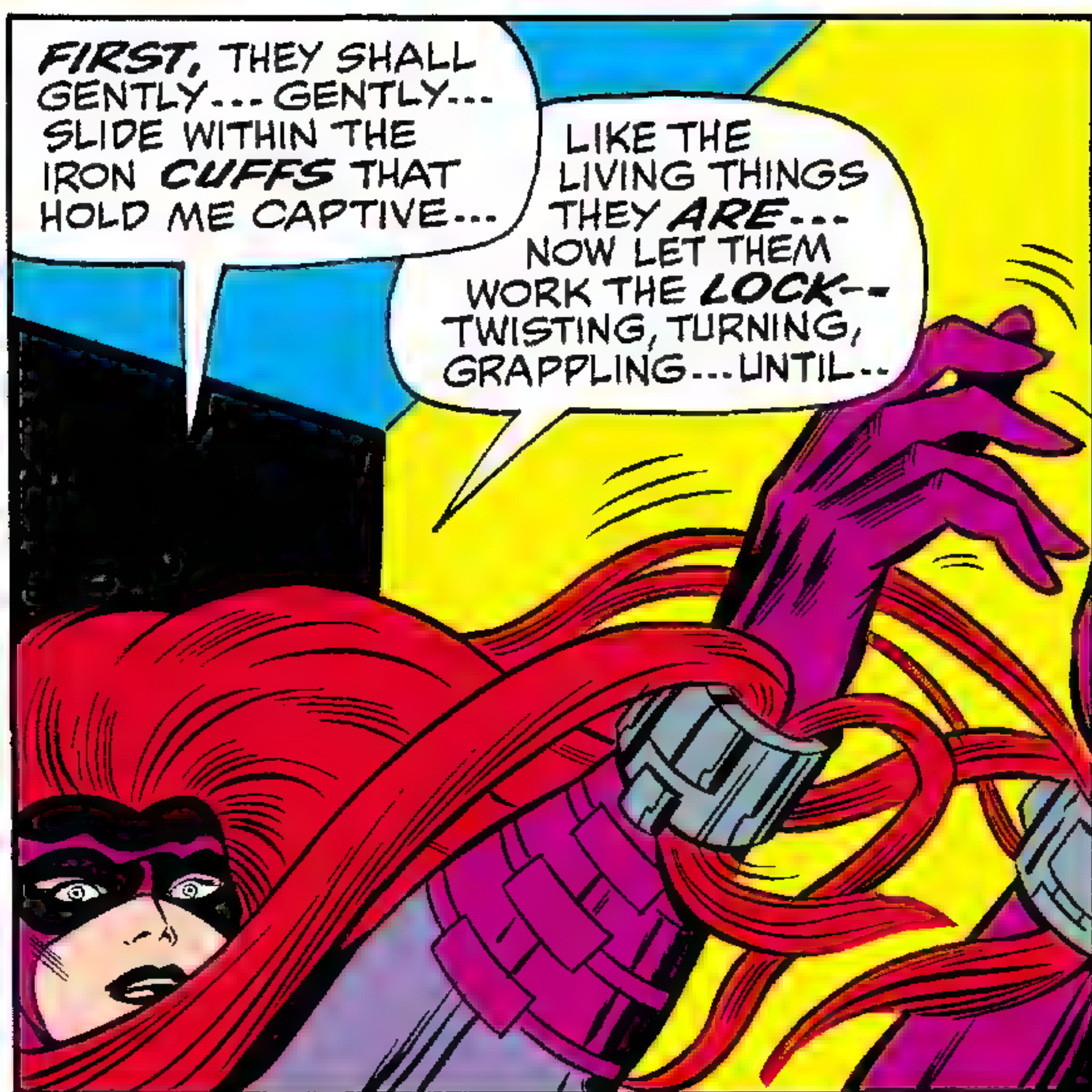
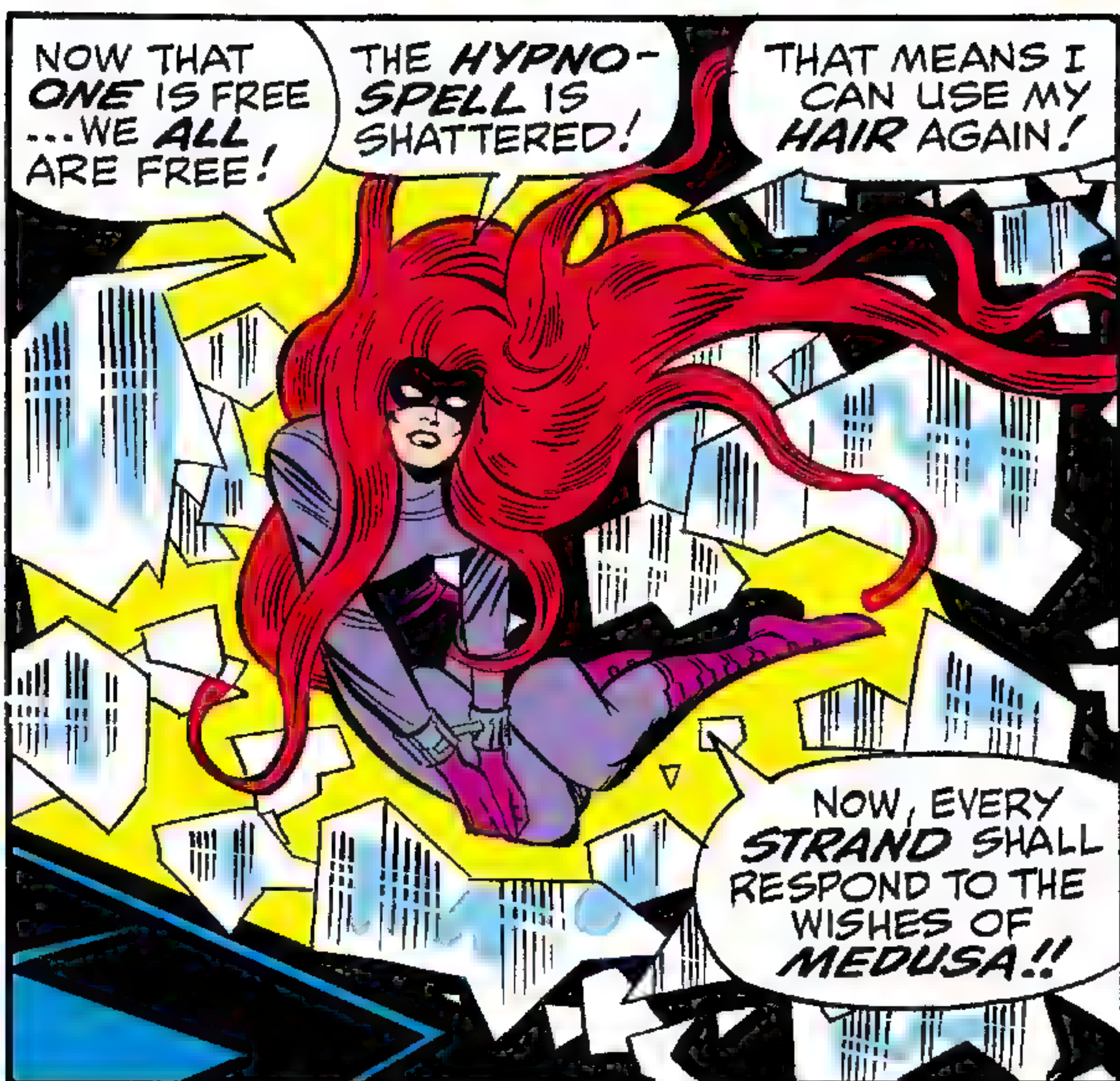
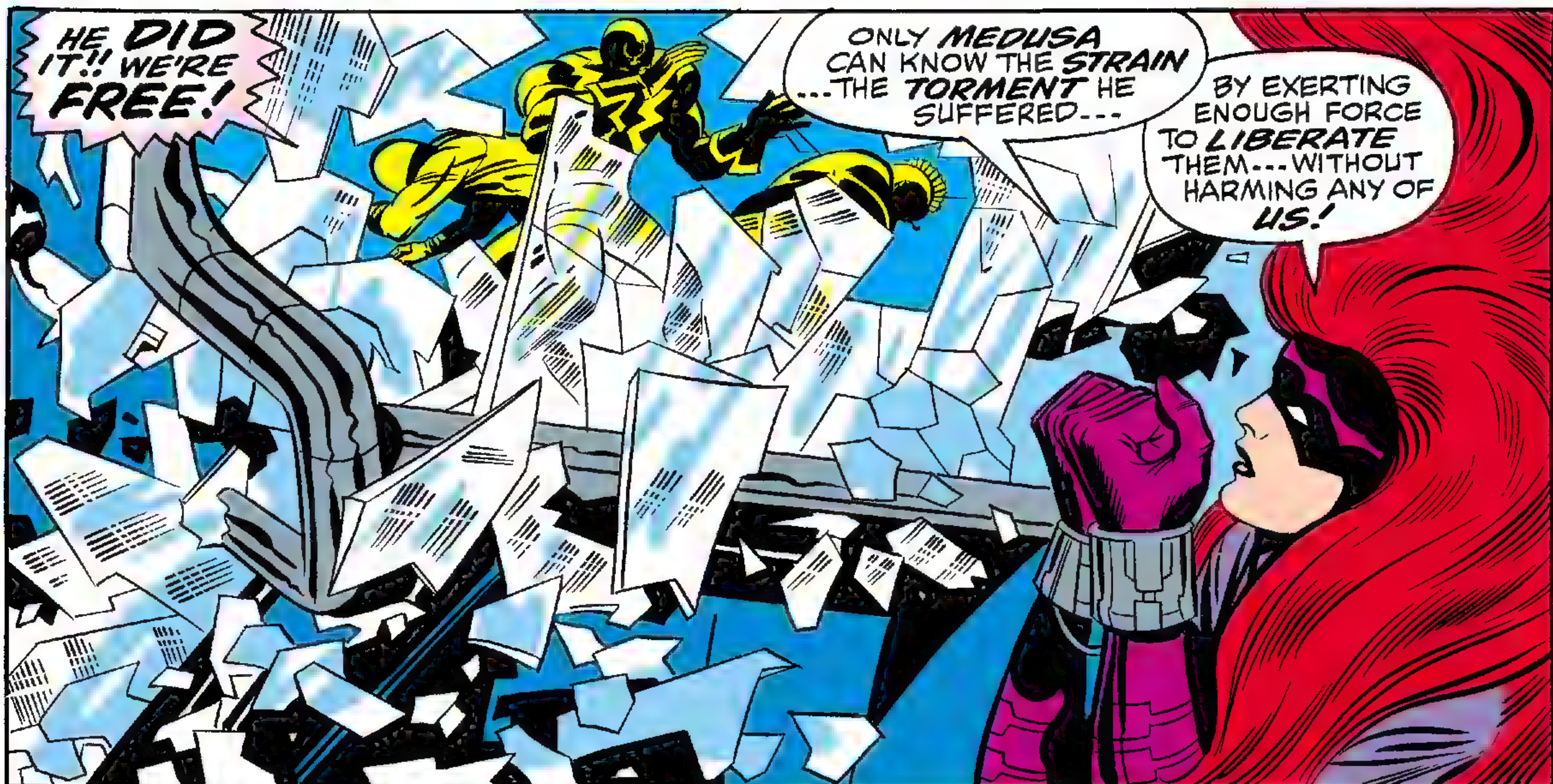
ONLY BY EMPLOYING THE
MOST **SENSITIVE...**
THE MOST **PERFECT**
PITCH...

CAN WE **SURVIVE**
THE IMPACT!!

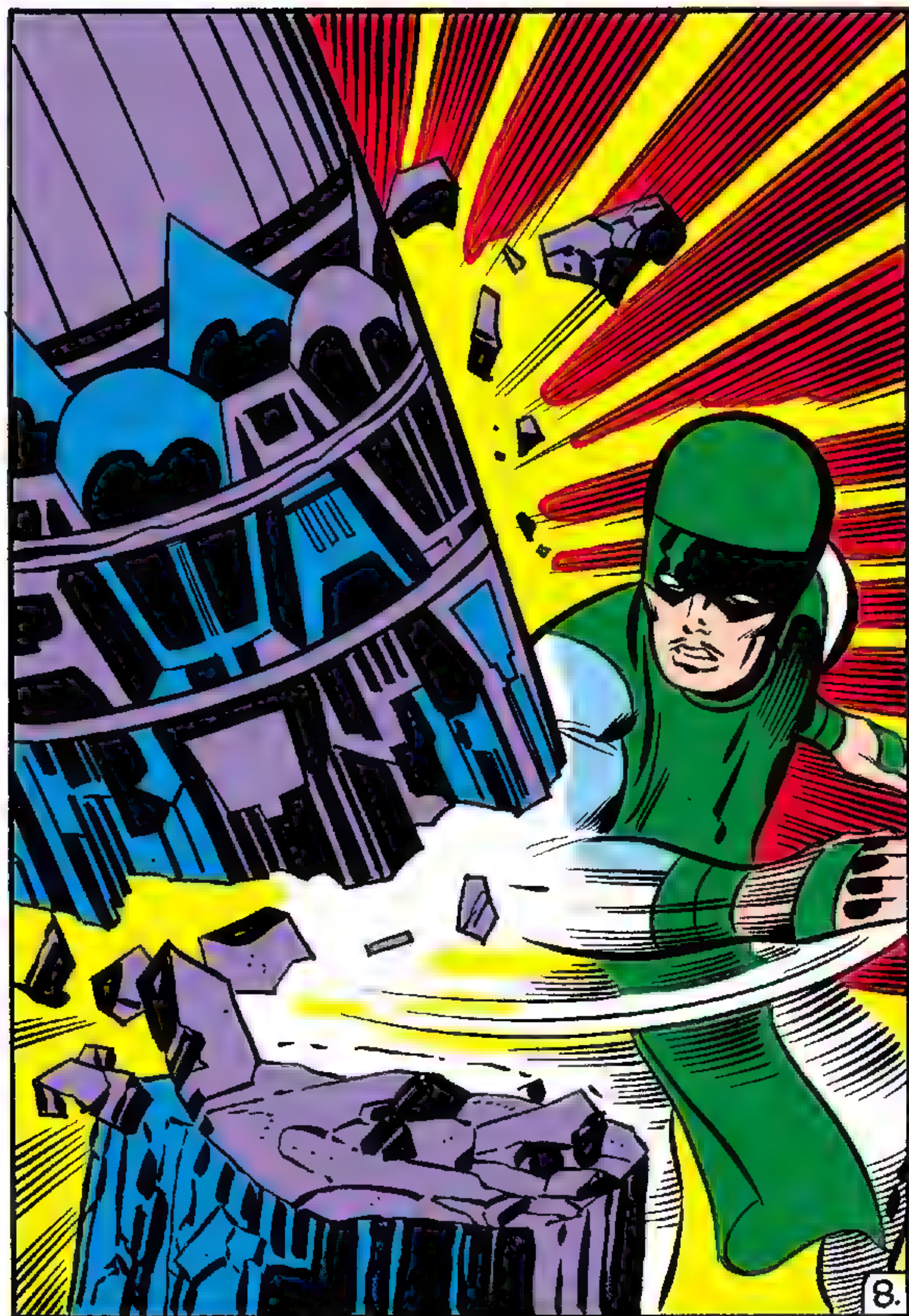
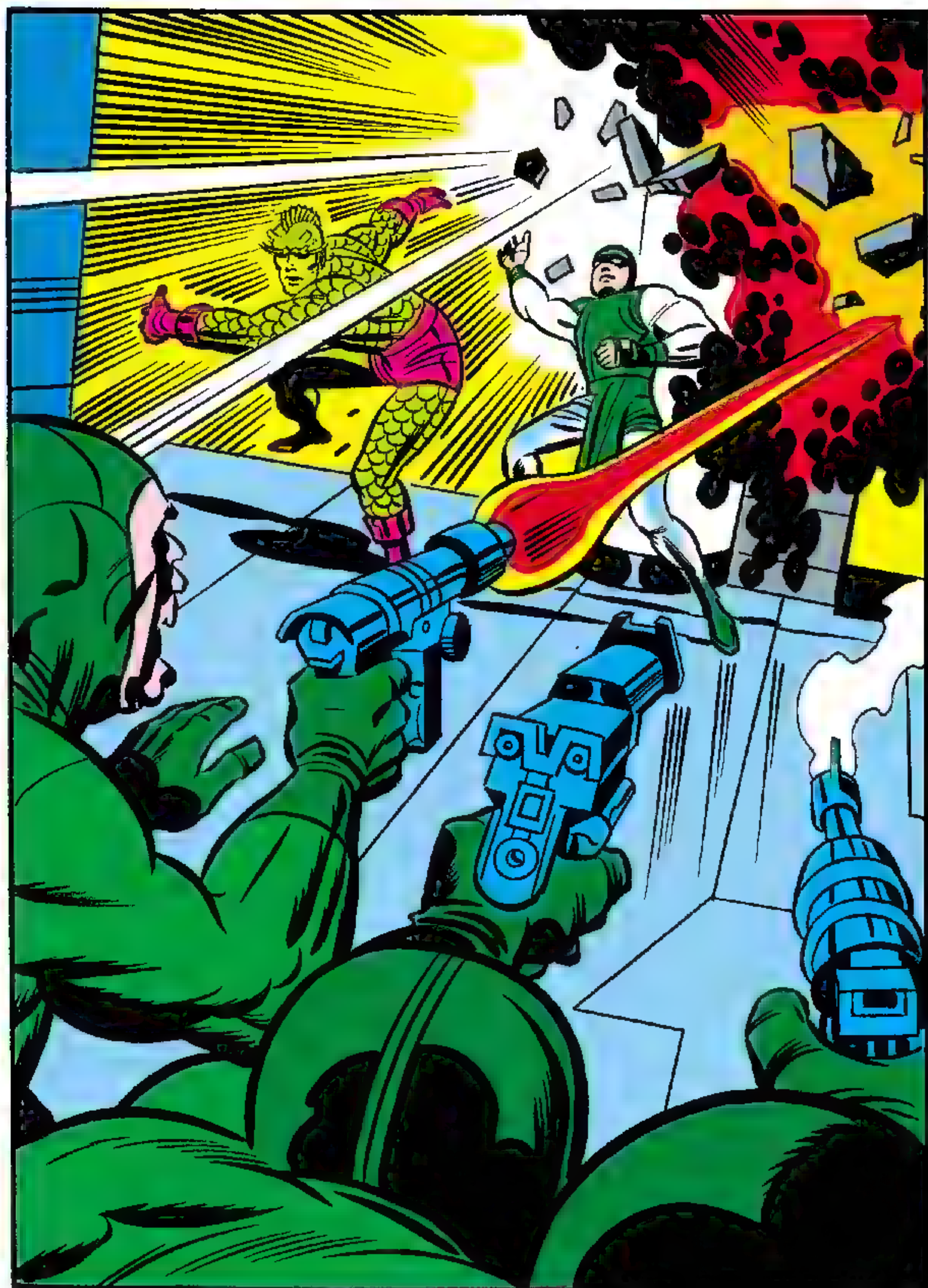
THE INTENSITY
GROWS...

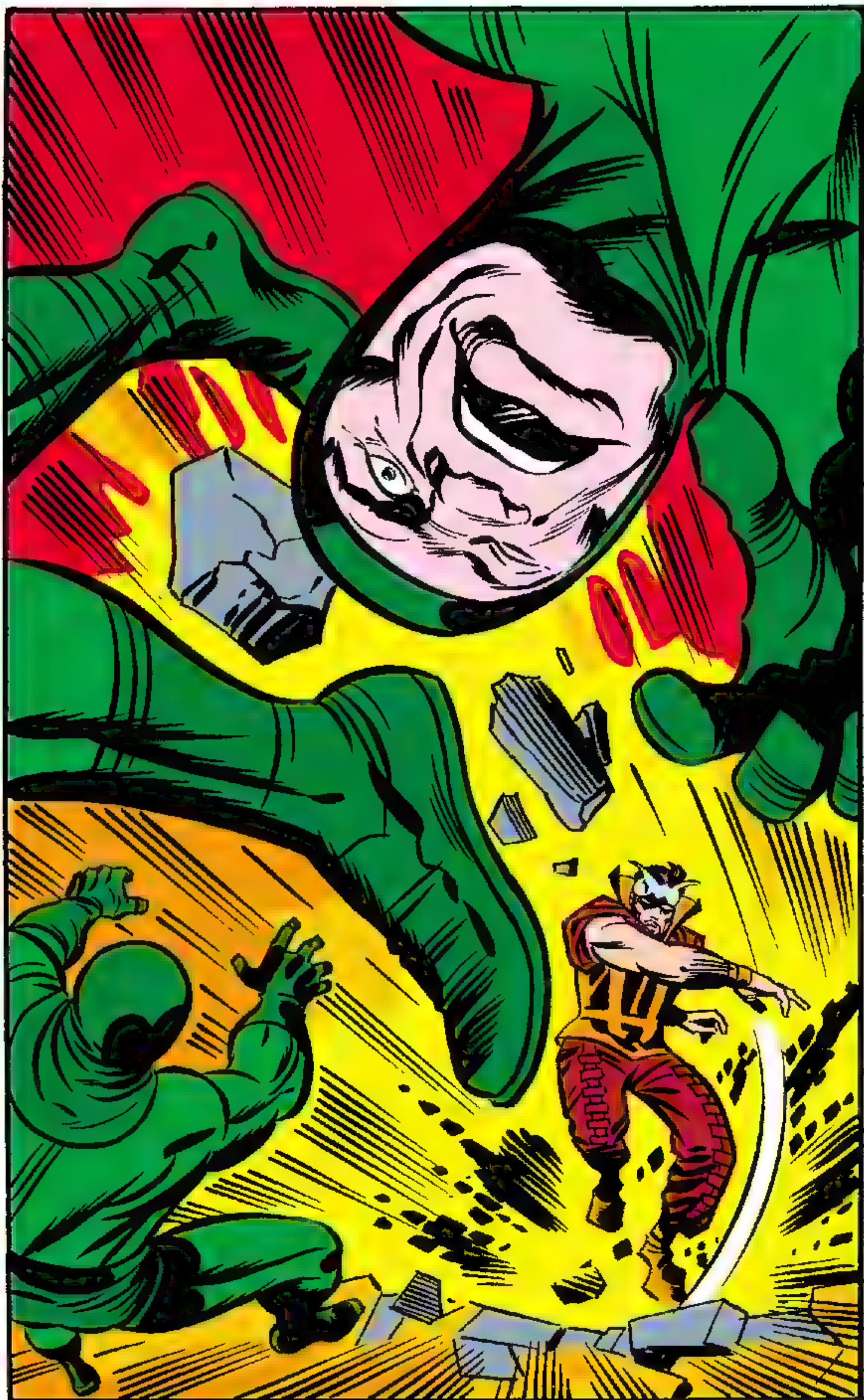
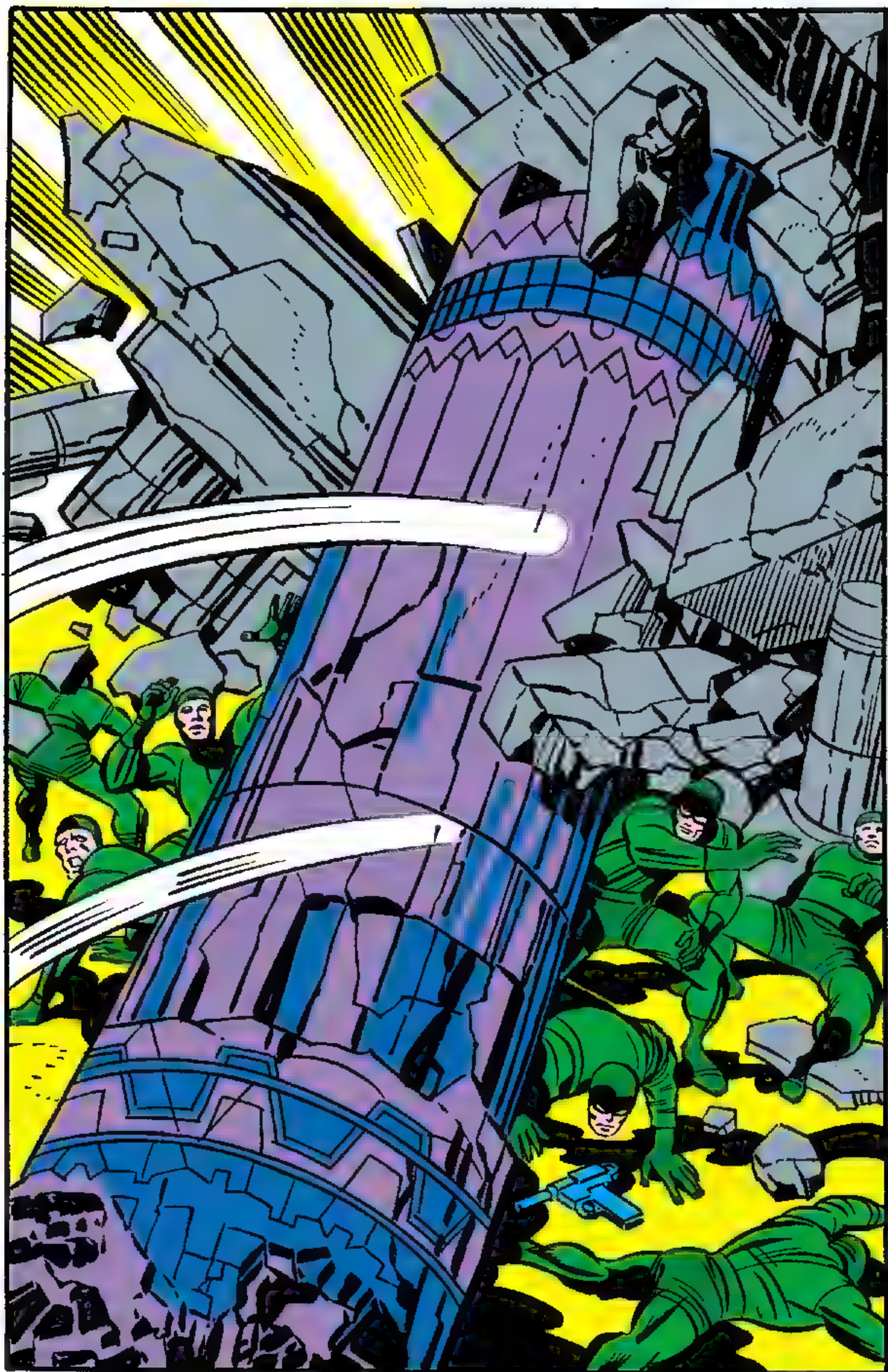
**PREPARE
YOURSELVES...**

**THE
MOMENT
IS
HERE!!**



BUT, BEFORE *MEDUSA* CAN EMPLOY HER HAIR
...OR *CRYSTAL* HER ELEMENTAL POWER...





HOLD, MY BRETHREN!

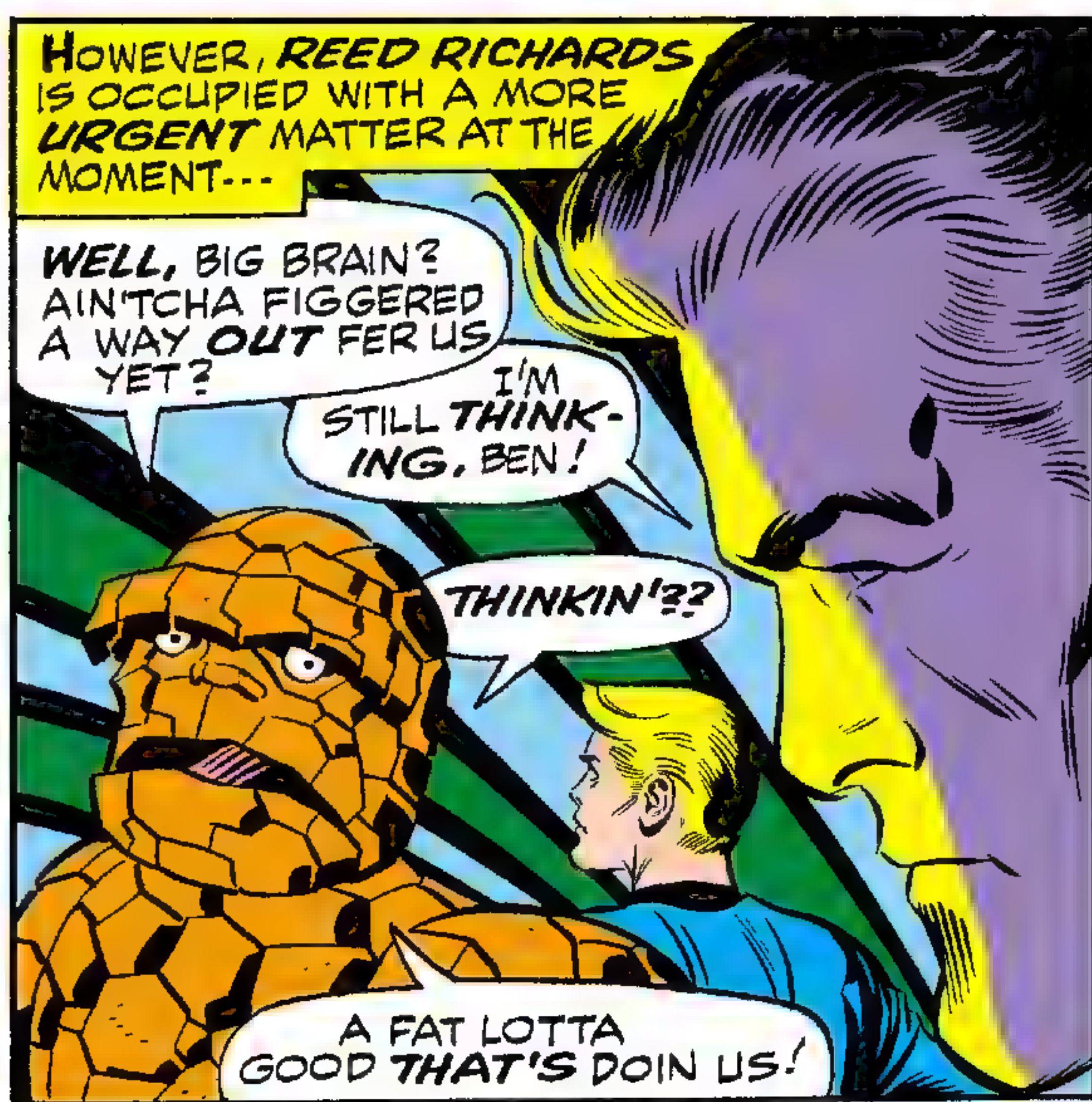
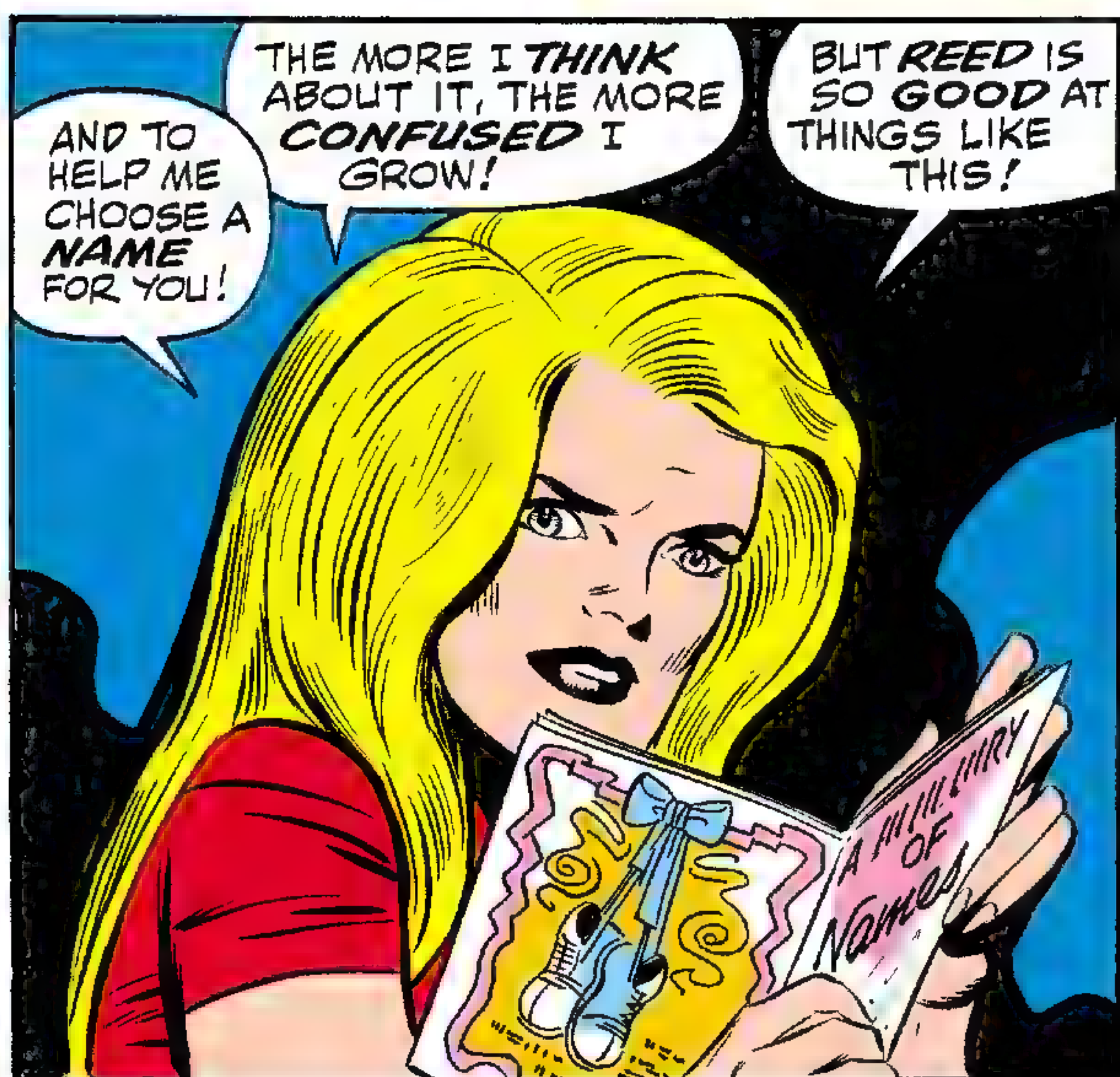
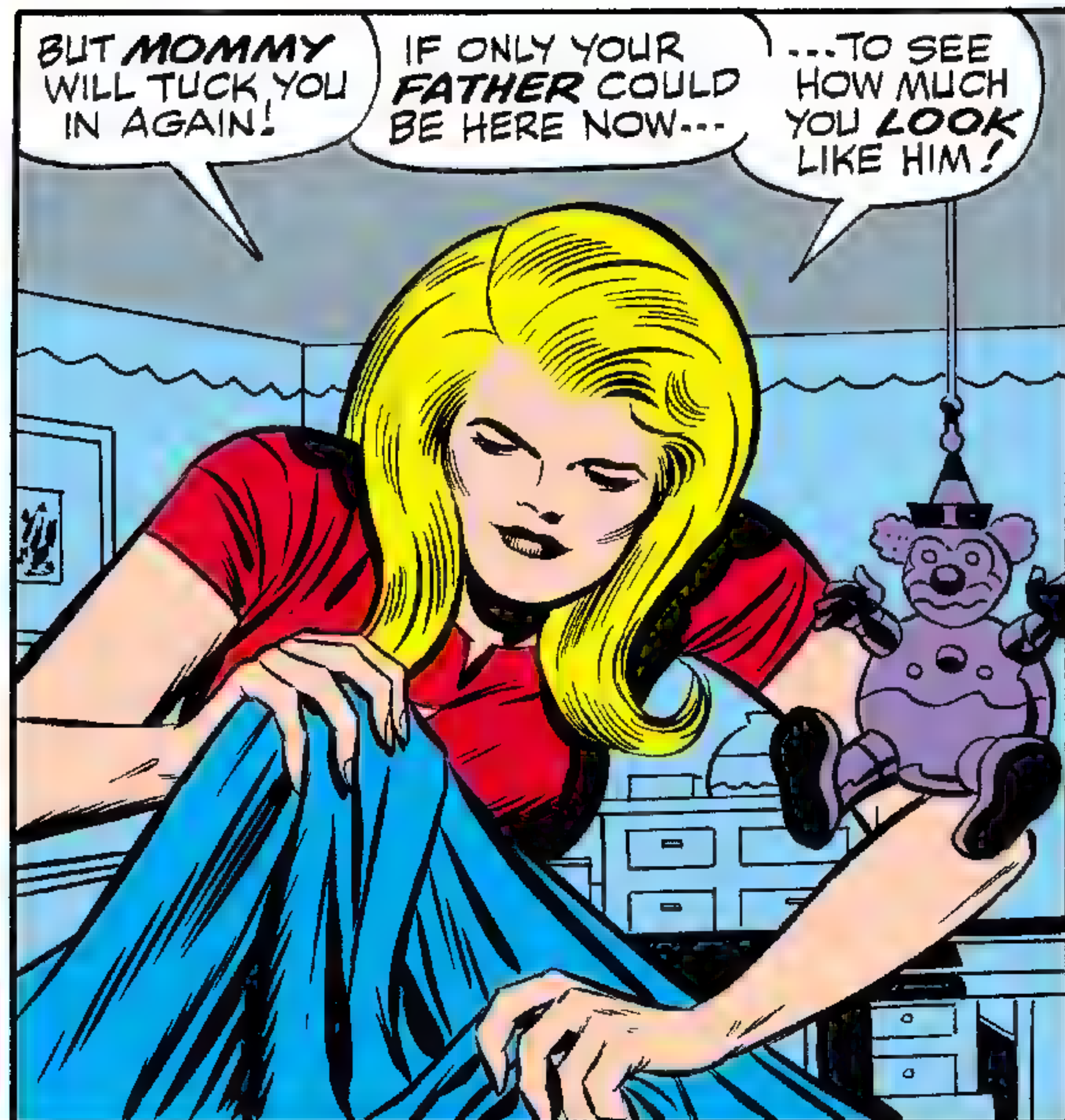
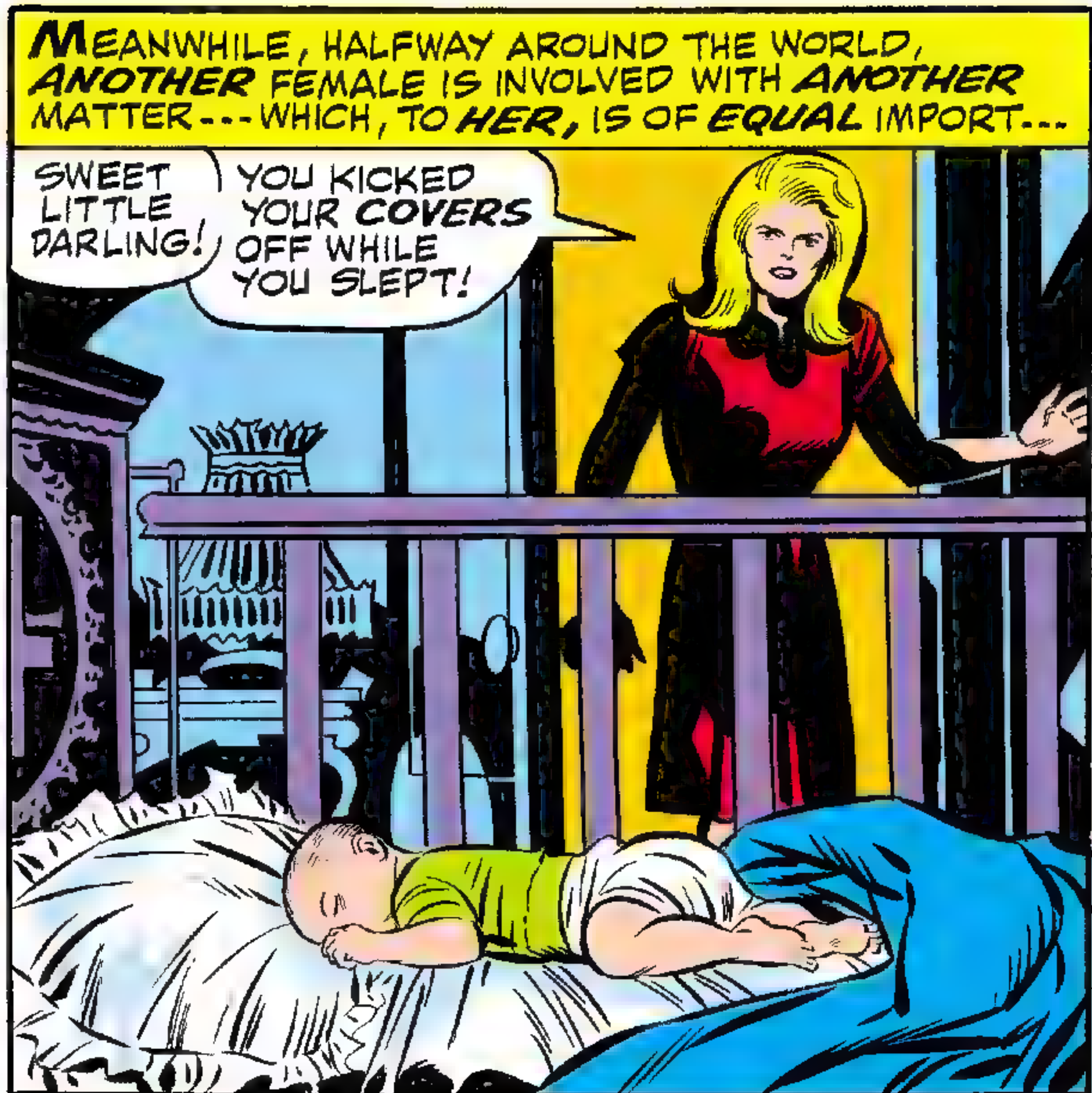
BLACK BOLT TURNS!!
HE FACES THE DIRECTION
WHEREIN WE SHALL FIND
MAXIMUS!!

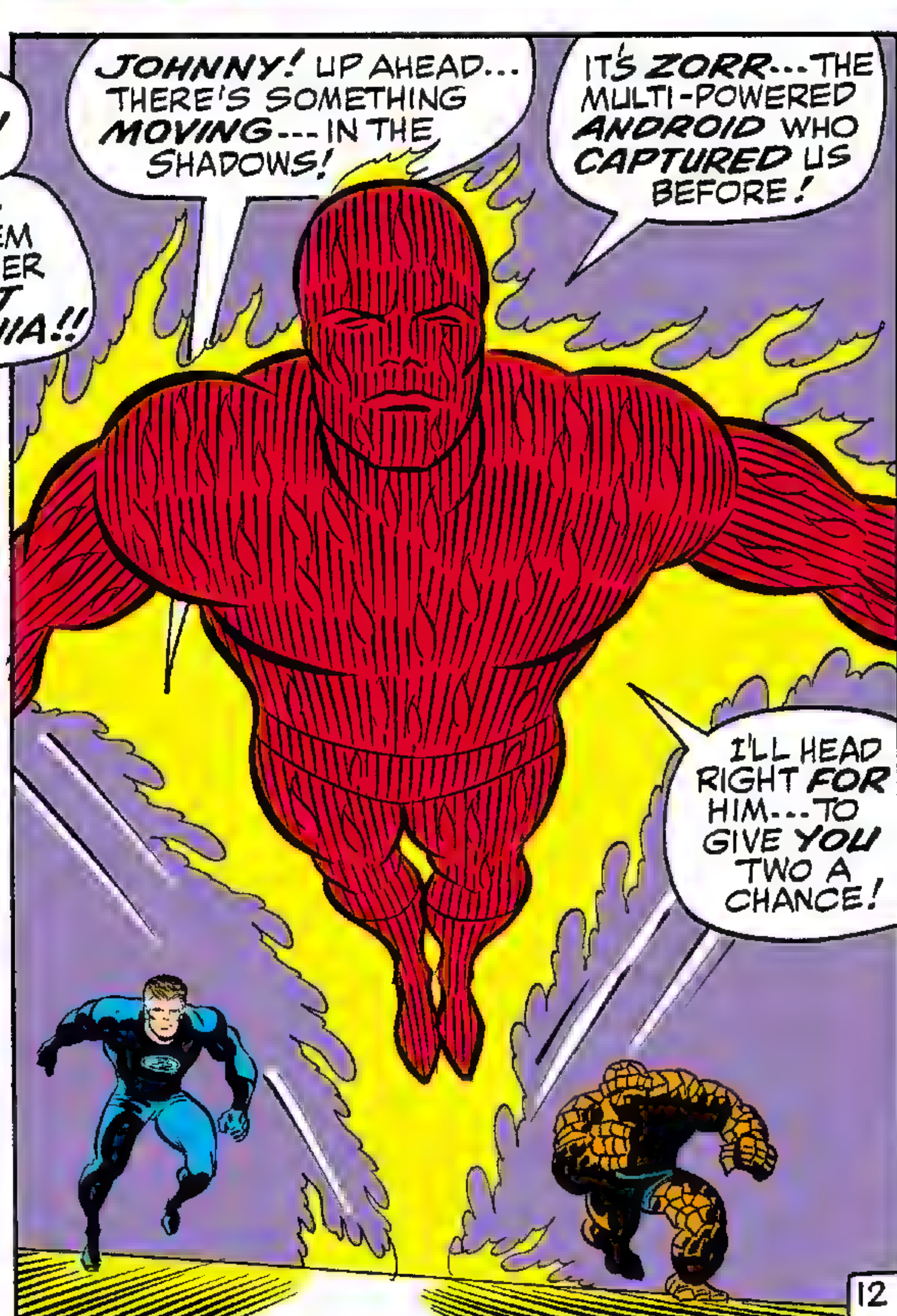
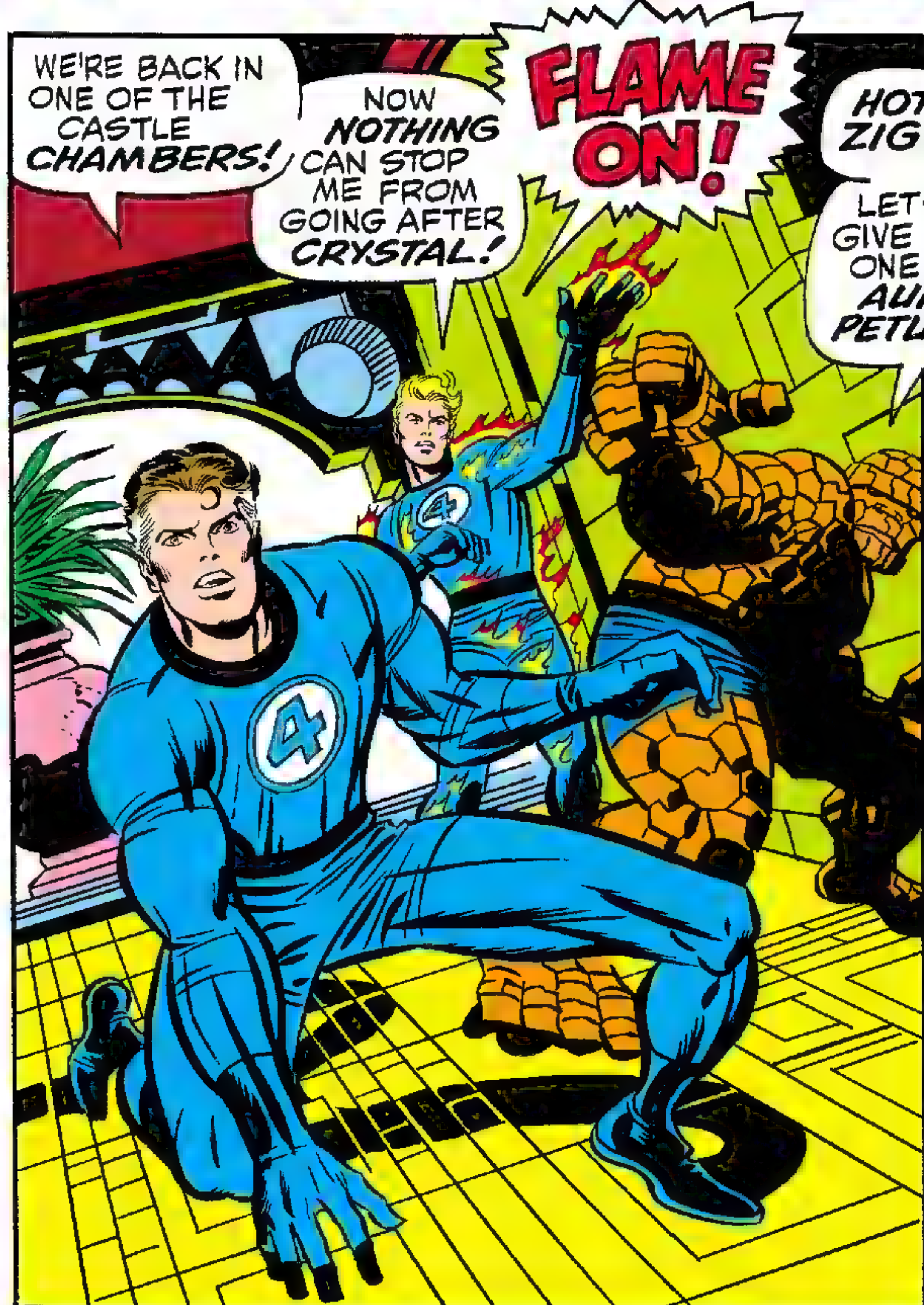
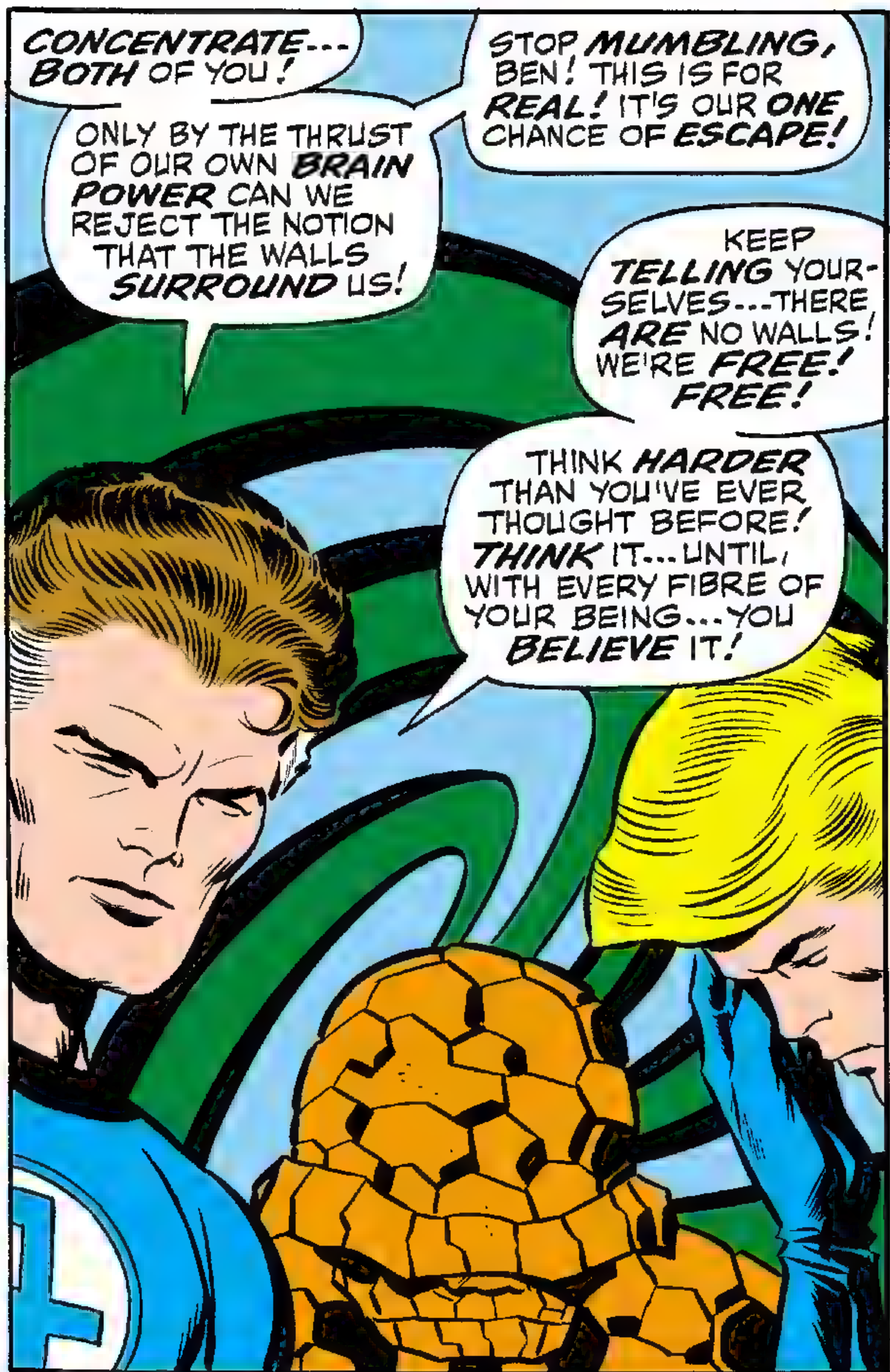
BEHOLD
THE WRATH
IN HIS EYES...
THE COMMAND
ON HIS FACE!!

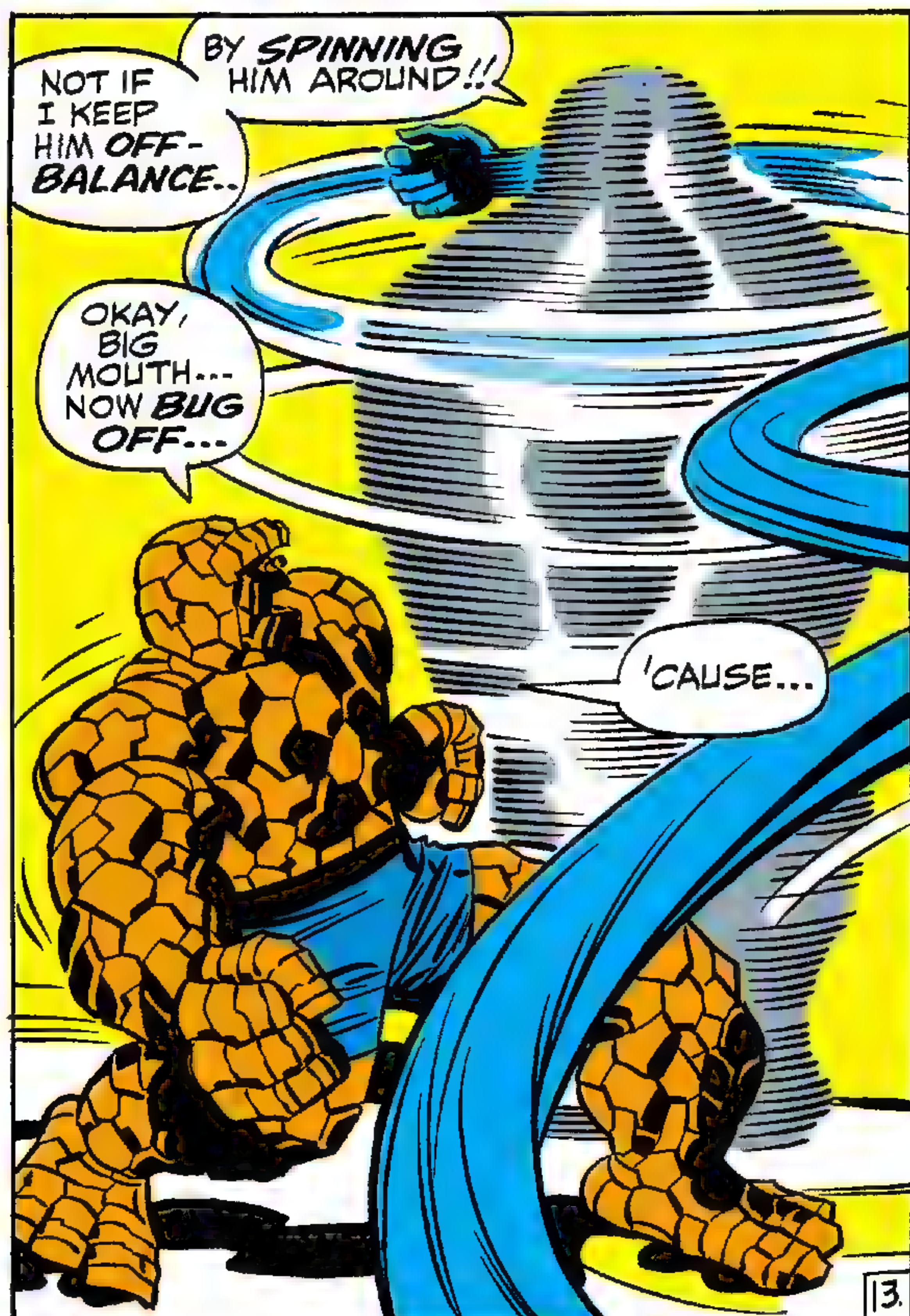
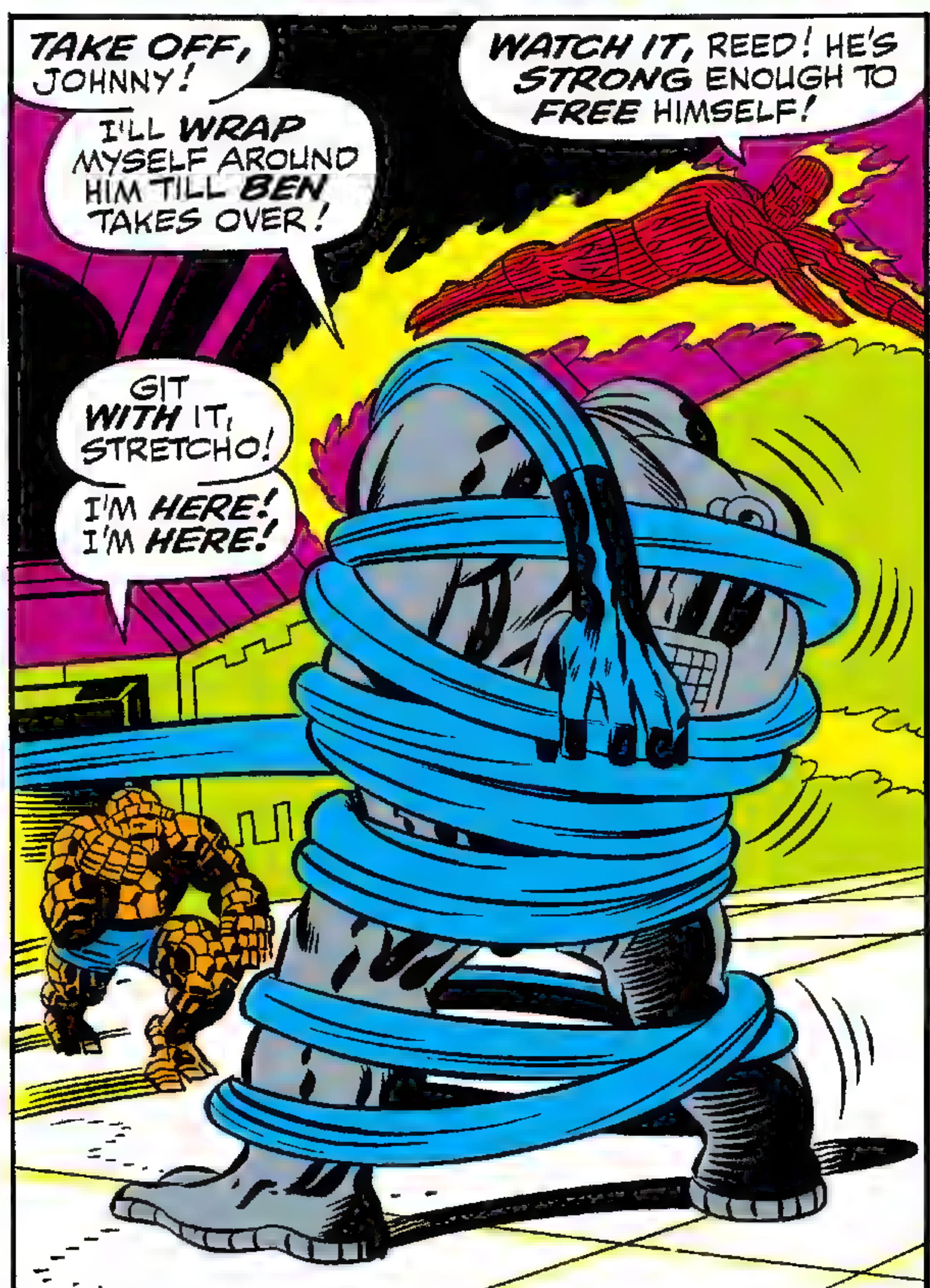
HE REMEMBERS
THE **HYPNO-RAY...**
WITH WHICH THE
MADMAN HAS
THREATENED ALL
THE **WORLD!!**

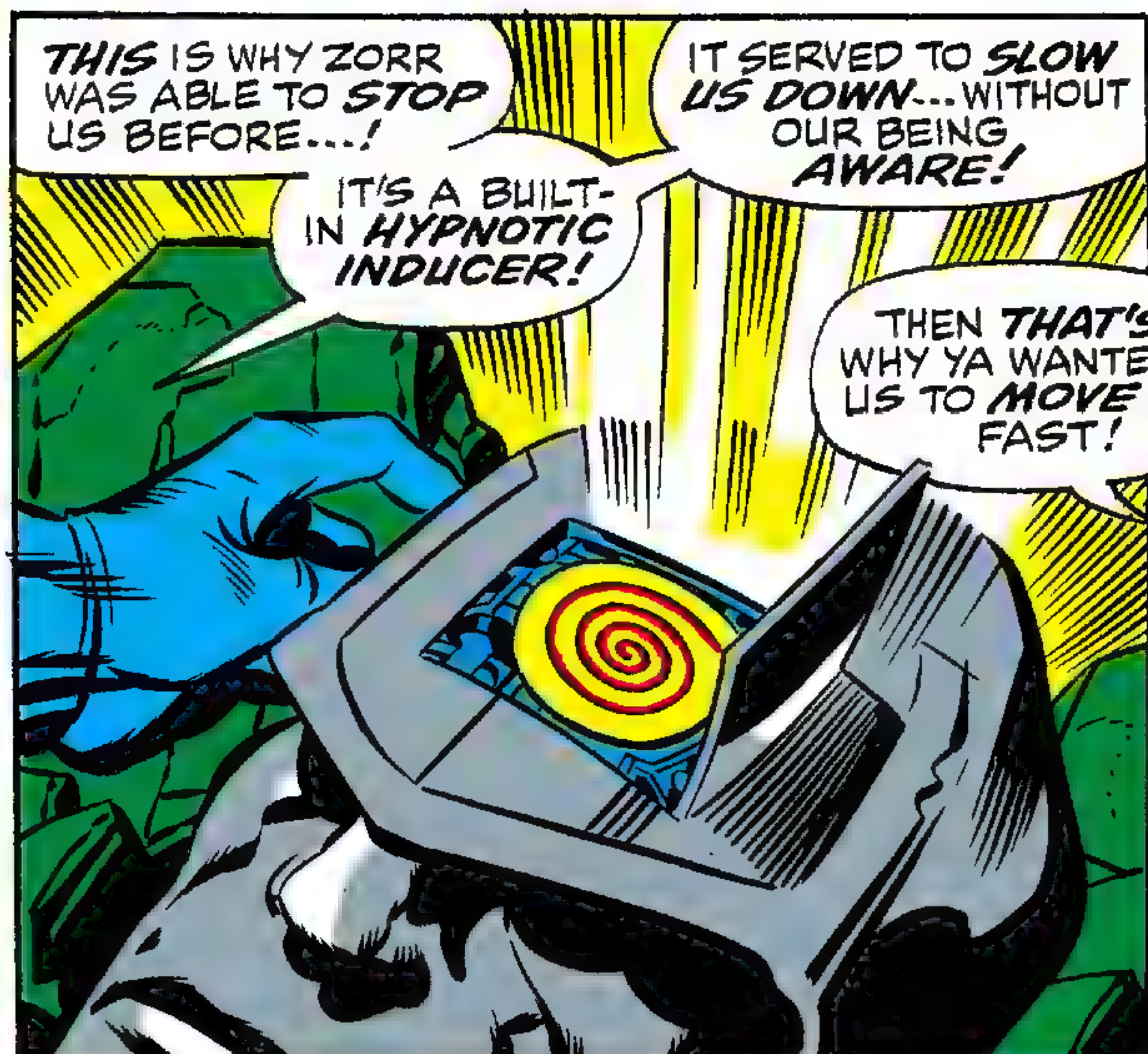
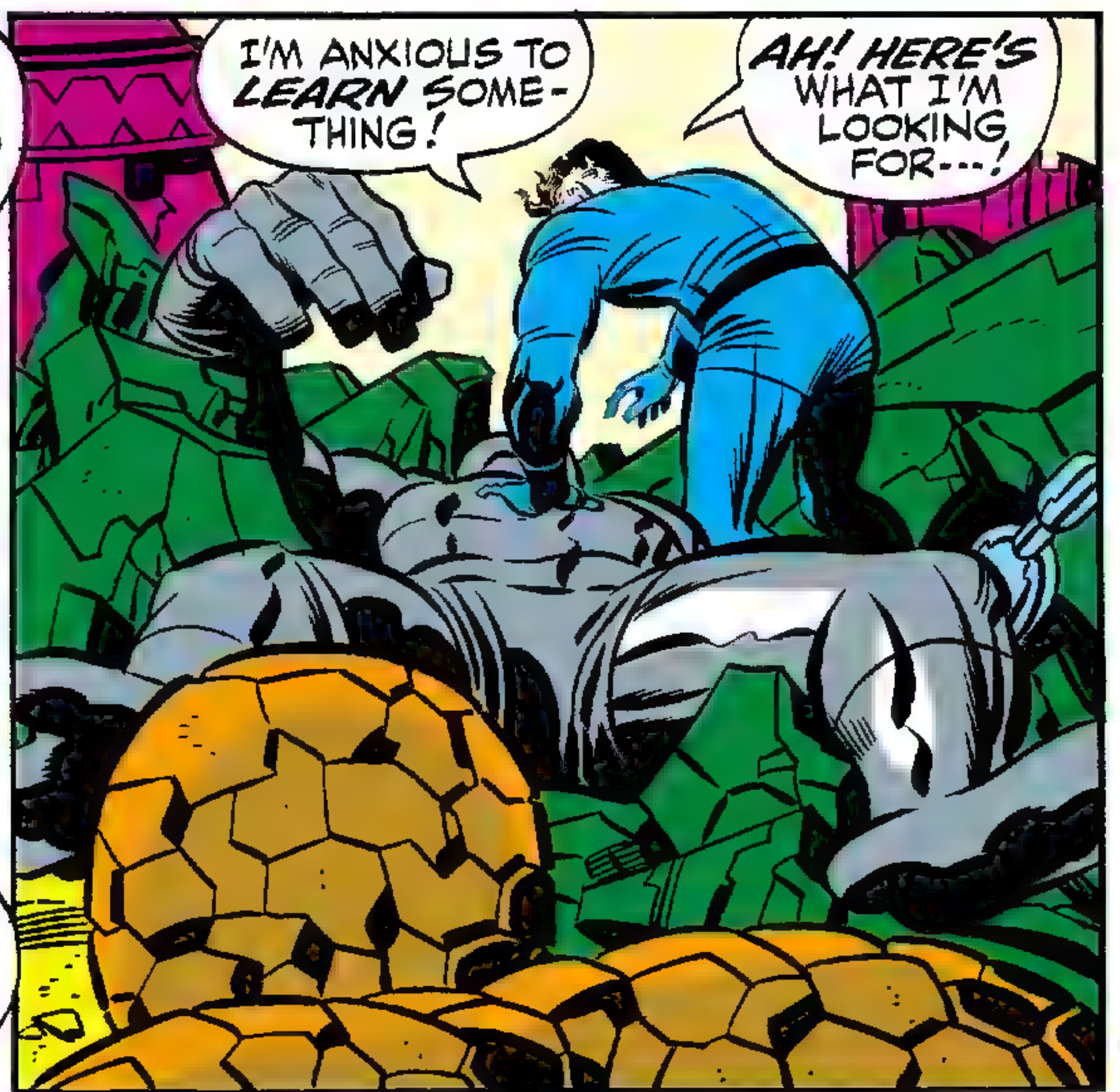
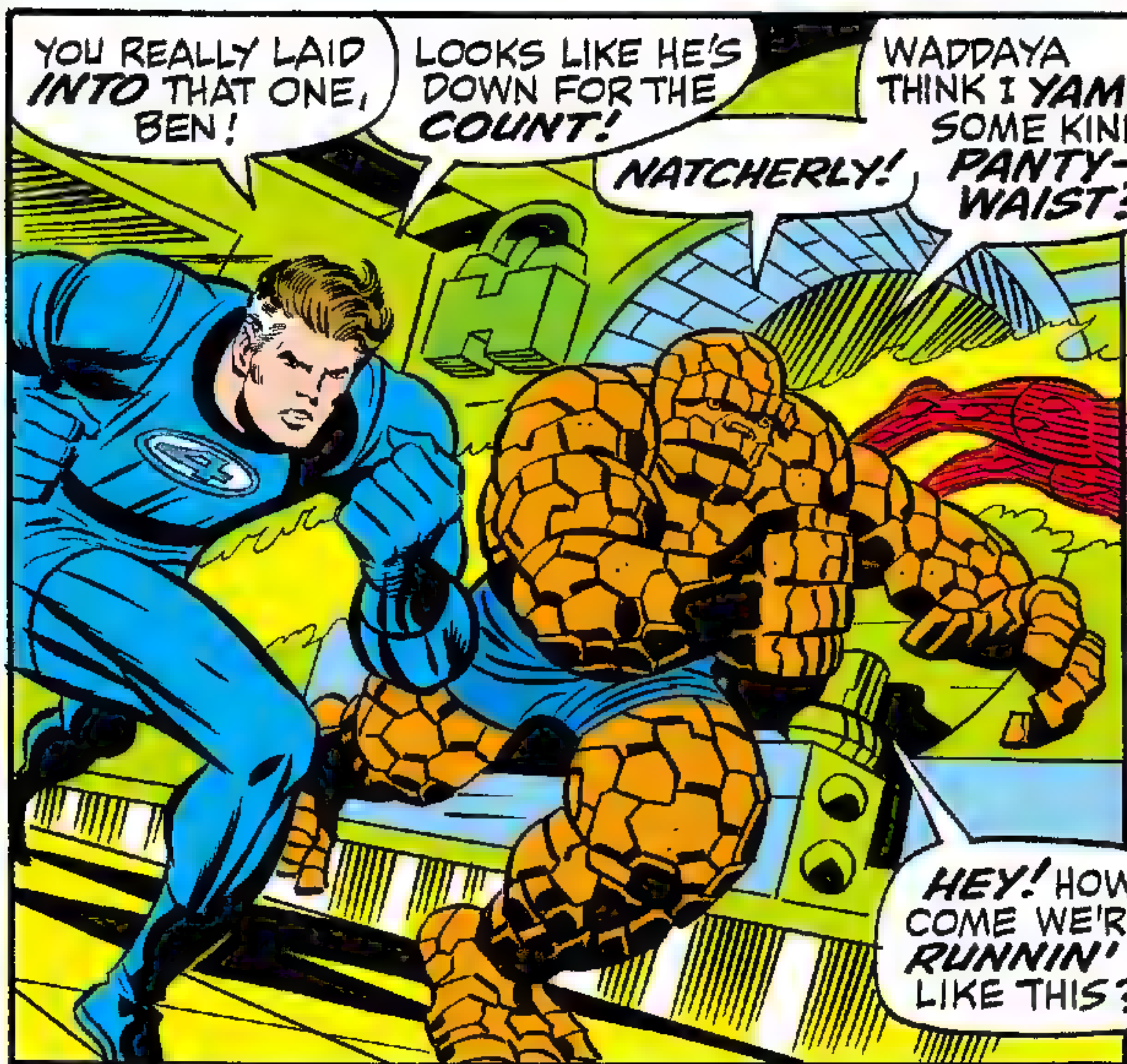
ONLY *WE* CAN STOP
OUR SOVEREIGN'S EVIL
BROTHER... SO LONG AS
MY BELOVED **LEADS US!**

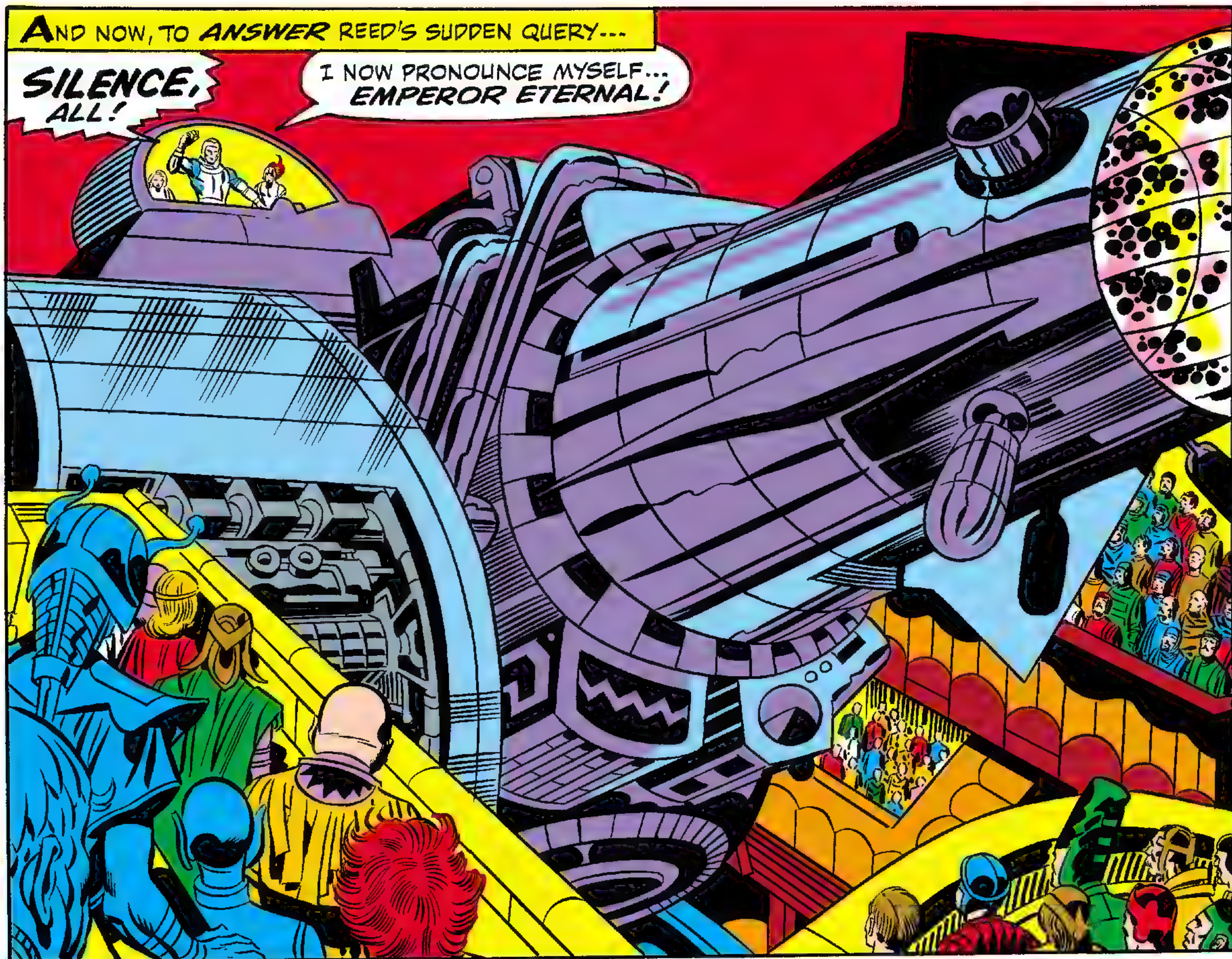
AND STOP
HIM *WE MUST...*
BEFORE HE SETS
HUMAN AGAINST
INHUMAN... BEFORE
HE TURNS ALL OF
EARTH INTO A
SAVAGE, BLAZING
BATTLEFIELD!!









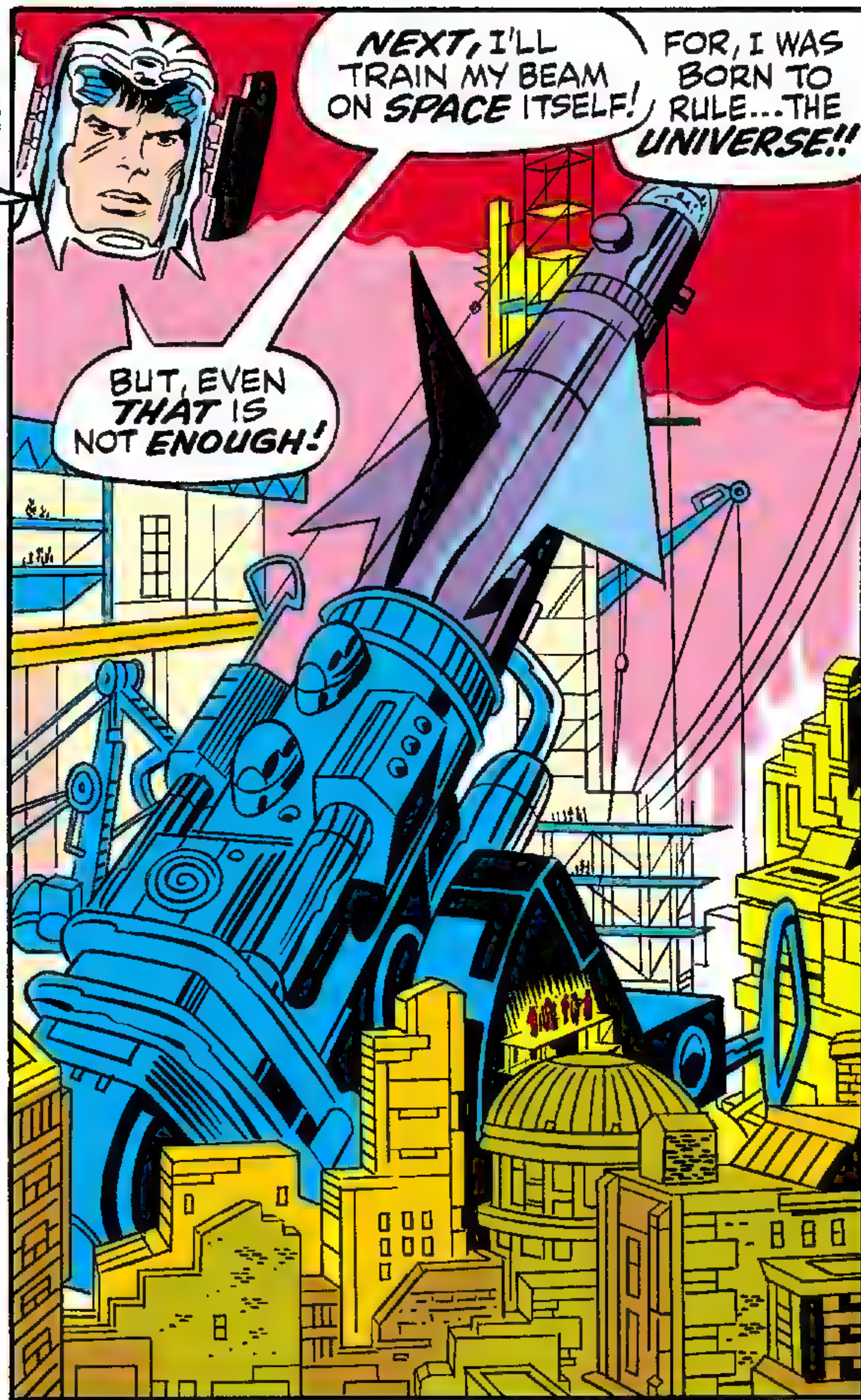




NO CORNER
OF THE **GLOBE**
SHALL ESCAPE
ITS POWER...

NOT A SINGLE
LIVING **SOUL**
SHALL FAIL TO
FEEL ITS AWESOME
TOUCH!!

WITH **ONE** FELL
SWOOP...
MAXIMUS
SHALL **RULE**
A **WORLD!**



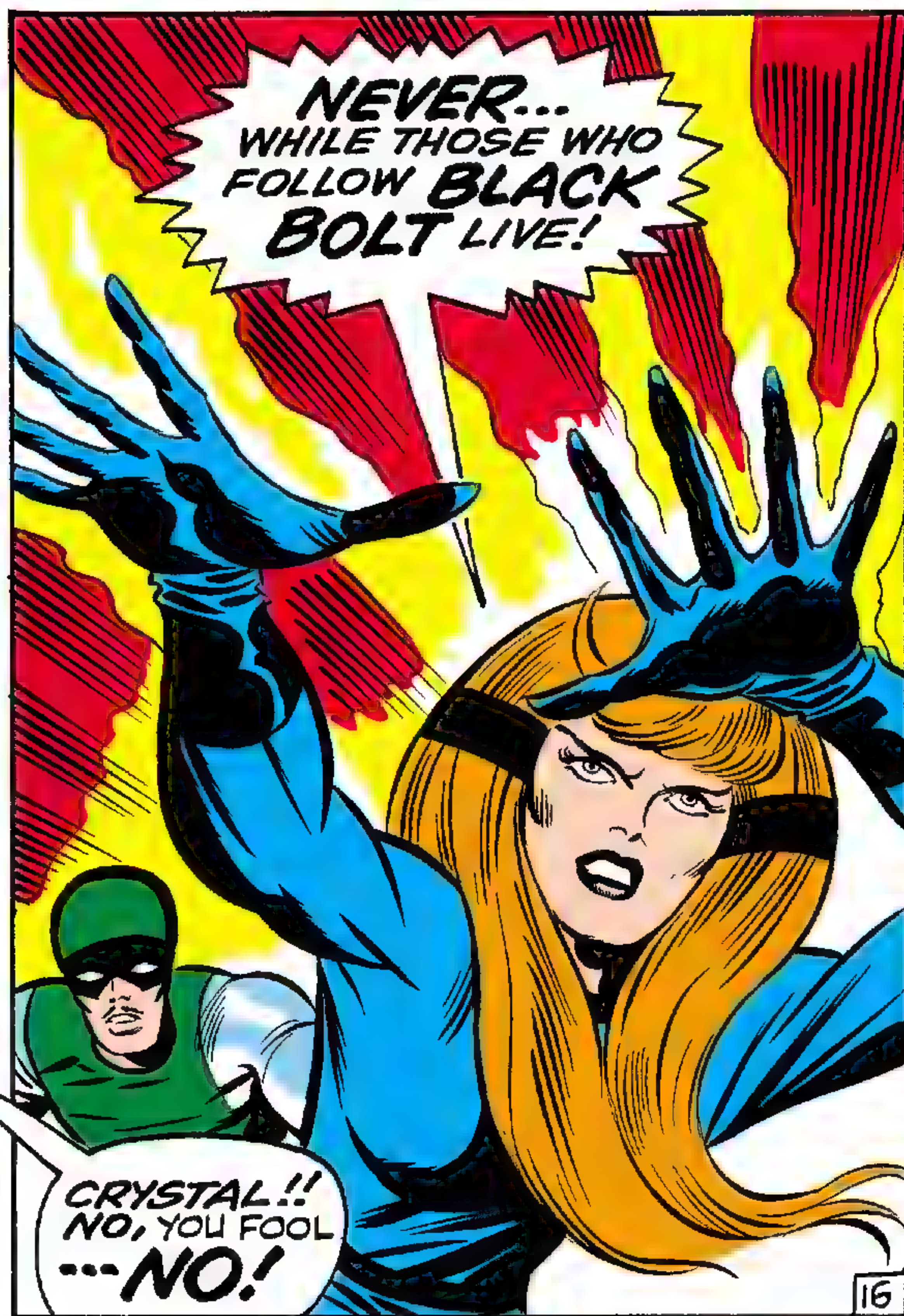
NEXT, I'LL
TRAIN MY BEAM
ON **SPACE** ITSELF!

FOR, I WAS
BORN TO
RULE...THE
UNIVERSE!!

BUT, EVEN
THAT IS
NOT **ENOUGH!**

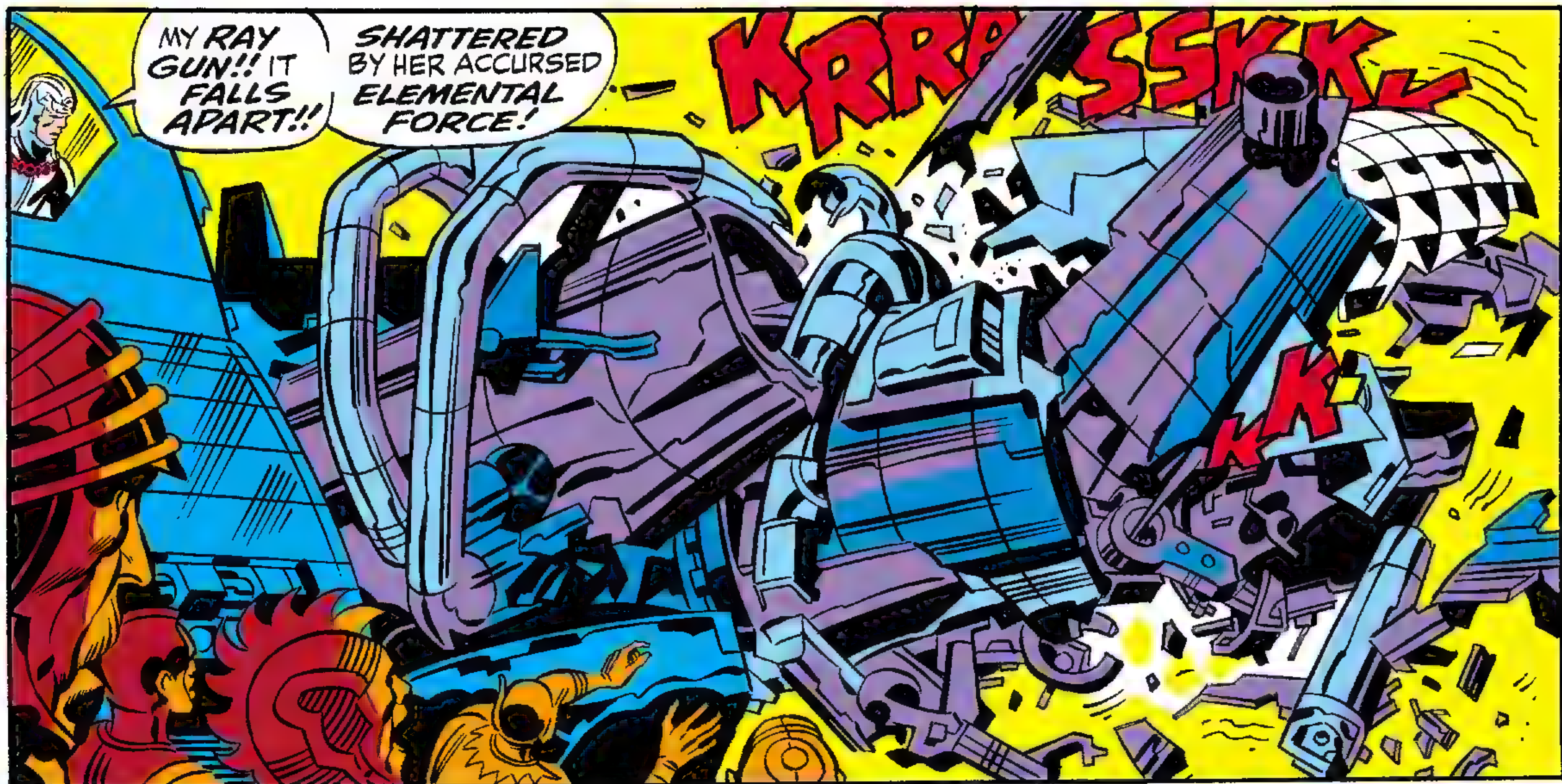


AND NOW... WITH
THE SUBJUGATION OF
ALL **MANKIND...**
THE REIGN OF **MAXIMUS**
BEGINS...!



NEVER...
WHILE THOSE WHO
FOLLOW **BLACK**
BOLT LIVE!

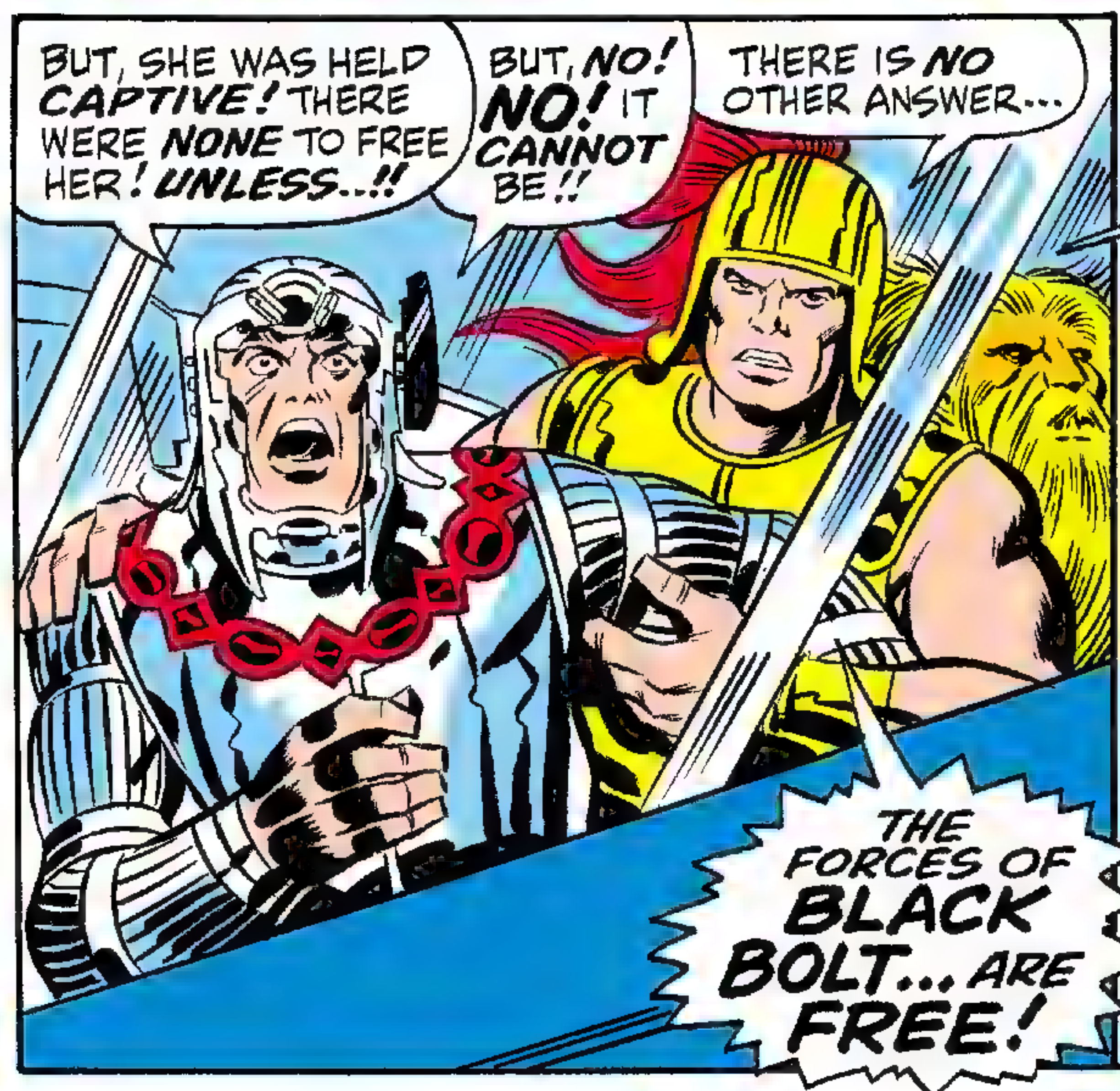
CRYSTAL!!
NO, YOU FOOL
...**NO!**



MY RAY
GUN!! IT
FALLS
APART!!

SHATTERED
BY HER ACCURSED
ELEMENTAL
FORCE!

KRRRA SSKK



BUT, SHE WAS HELD
CAPTIVE! THERE
WERE NONE TO FREE
HER! UNLESS...!!

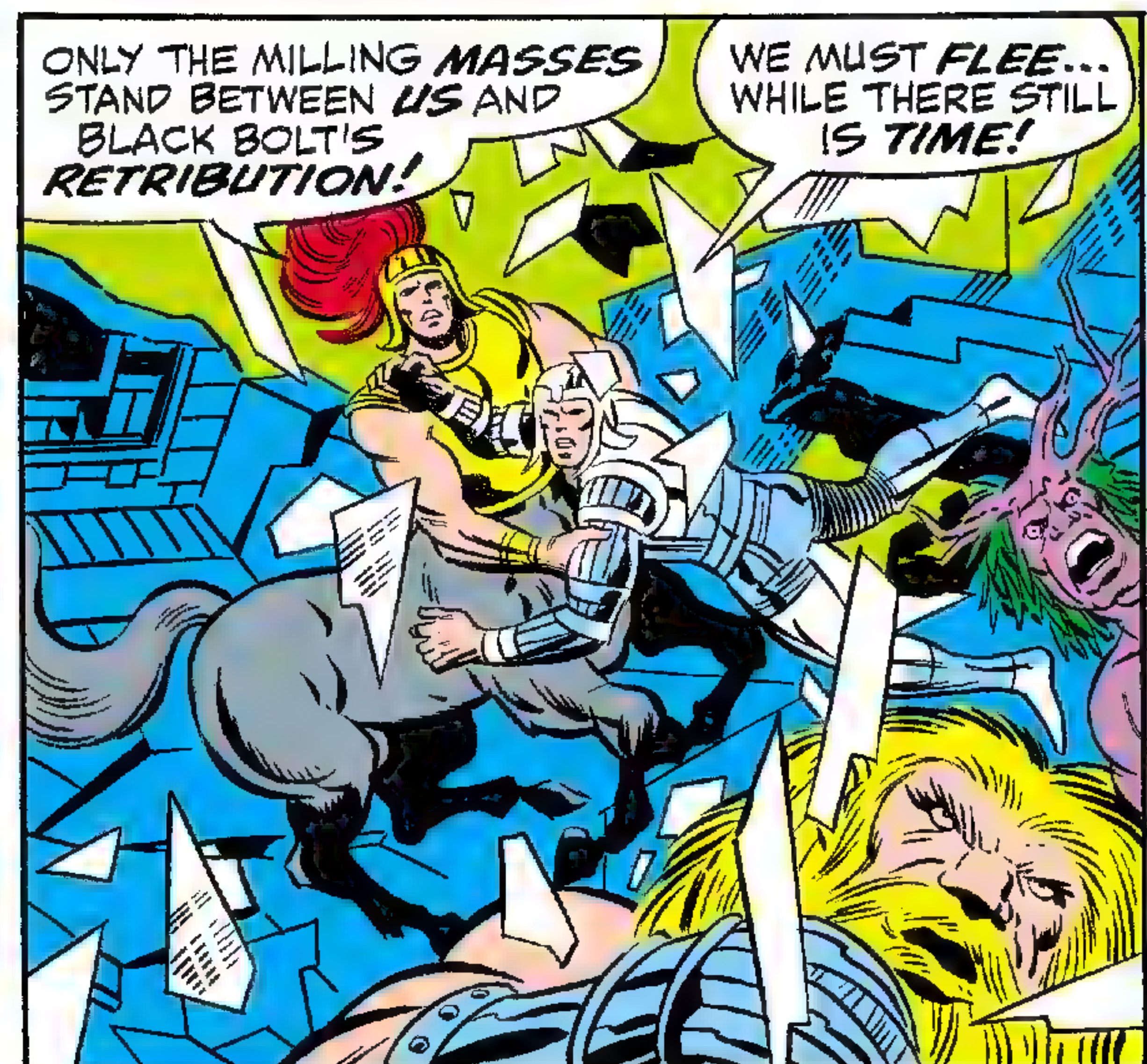
BUT, NO!
NO! IT
CANNOT
BE!!

THERE IS NO
OTHER ANSWER...

THE
FORCES OF
BLACK
BOLT... ARE
FREE!



EVEN NOW, THE
MIGHTY BOOT OF
GORGON STRIKES!!



ONLY THE MILLING MASSES
STAND BETWEEN US AND
BLACK BOLT'S
RETRIBUTION!

WE MUST FLEE...
WHILE THERE STILL
IS TIME!



FASTER, YOU
EQUINE DOLT
...FASTER!

MY
DESTINY
DECREES
THAT I STAY FREE
...FOR MAXIMUS
SHALL STRIKE
AGAIN!!



MAXIMUS HAS
FLED! HE HAS
DESERTED
US!

WE ARE
BETRAYED!!
BETRAYED BY
THE MAD ONE!

AFTER HIM!!
HE MUST BE MADE
TO PAY!

**DEATH TO
MAXIMUS!!**

NO!
WAIT!
BLACK
BOLT HAS
RETURNED!



HE SIGNALS US TO
HALT! HE GIVES
THE SIGN OF
IMPERIAL
COMMAND!

THEY
STOP!
THEY
OBEY!

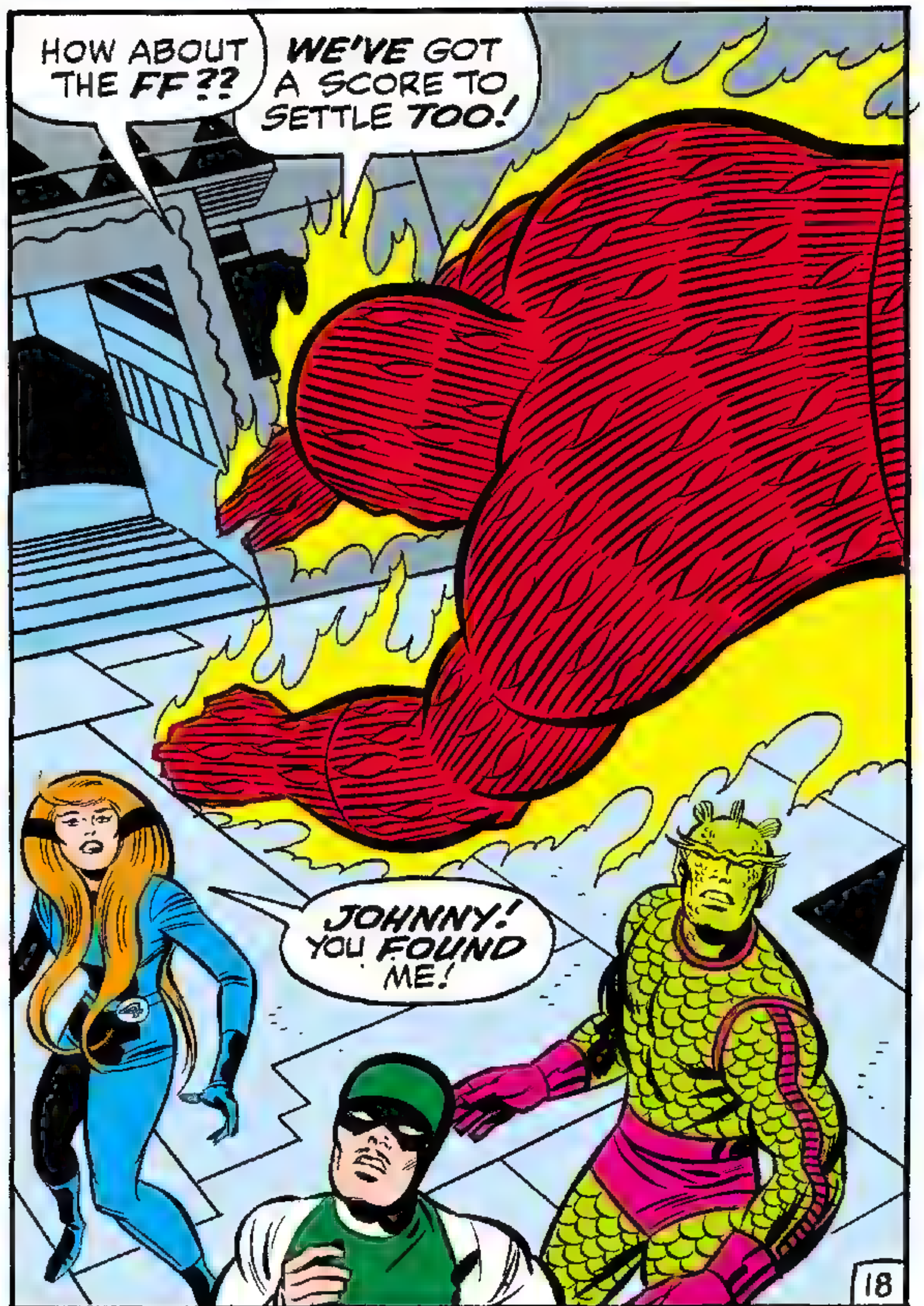


LET **ALL** ATTEND MY
WORDS! MEDUSA
SPEAKS FOR **BLACK
BOLT!**

YOUR ONCE-AND-
PRESENT **MONARCH**
HOLDS YOU **BLAME-
LESS!**

THE **CRIME** WAS
MAXIMUS! THE
GUILT IS
MAXIMUS!

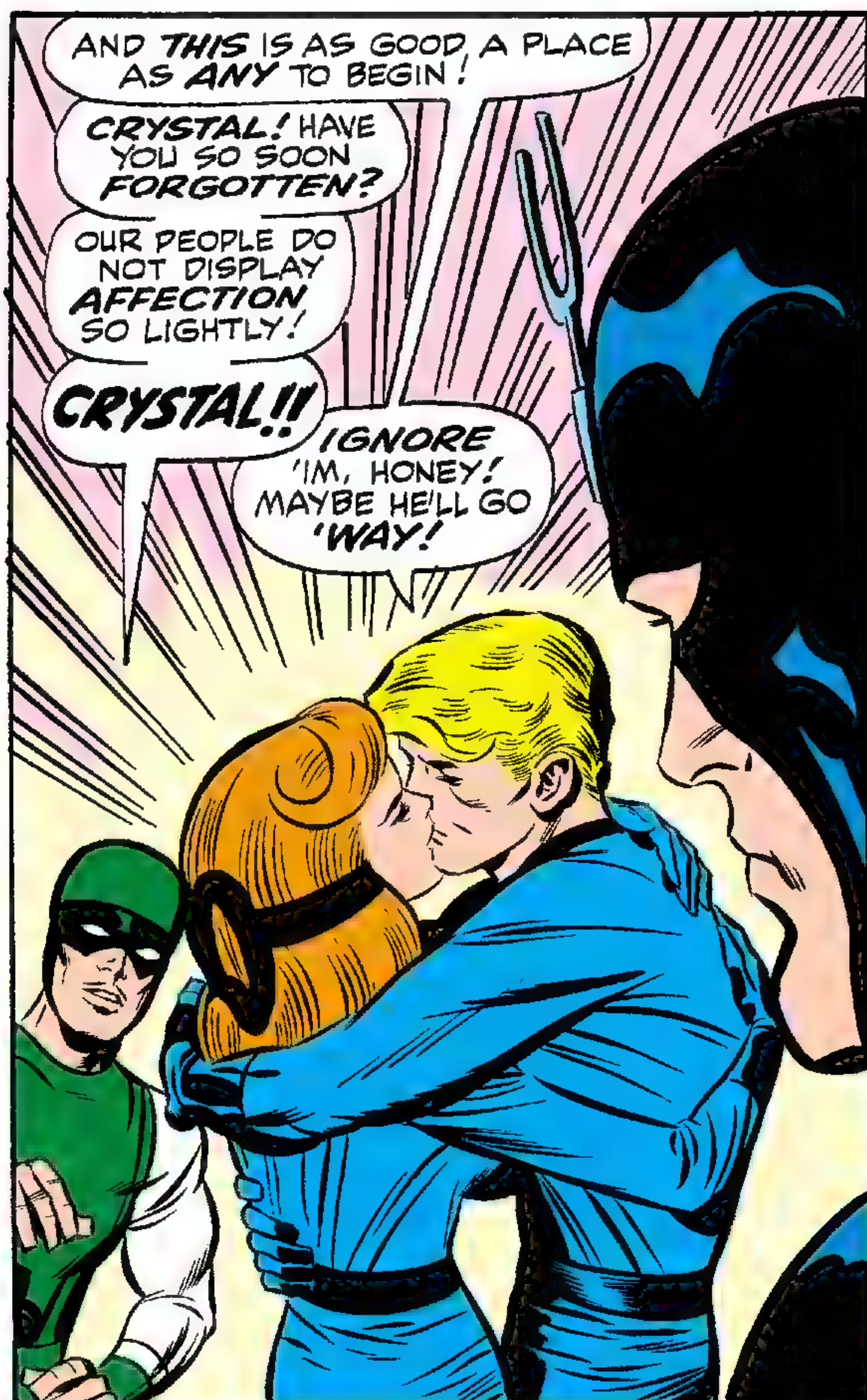
BUT ONLY
BLACK BOLT
MAY METE THE
PUNISHMENT!

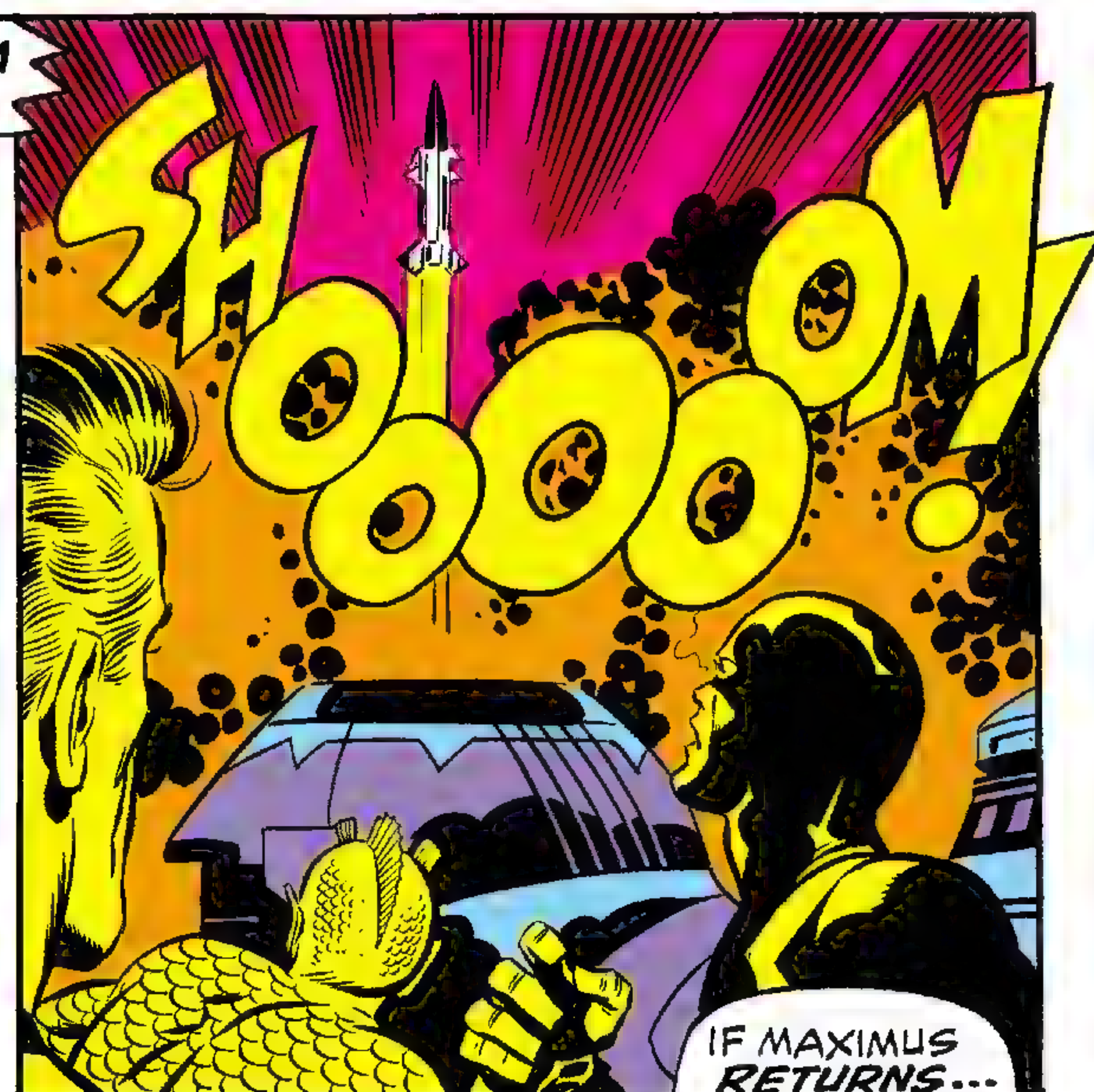
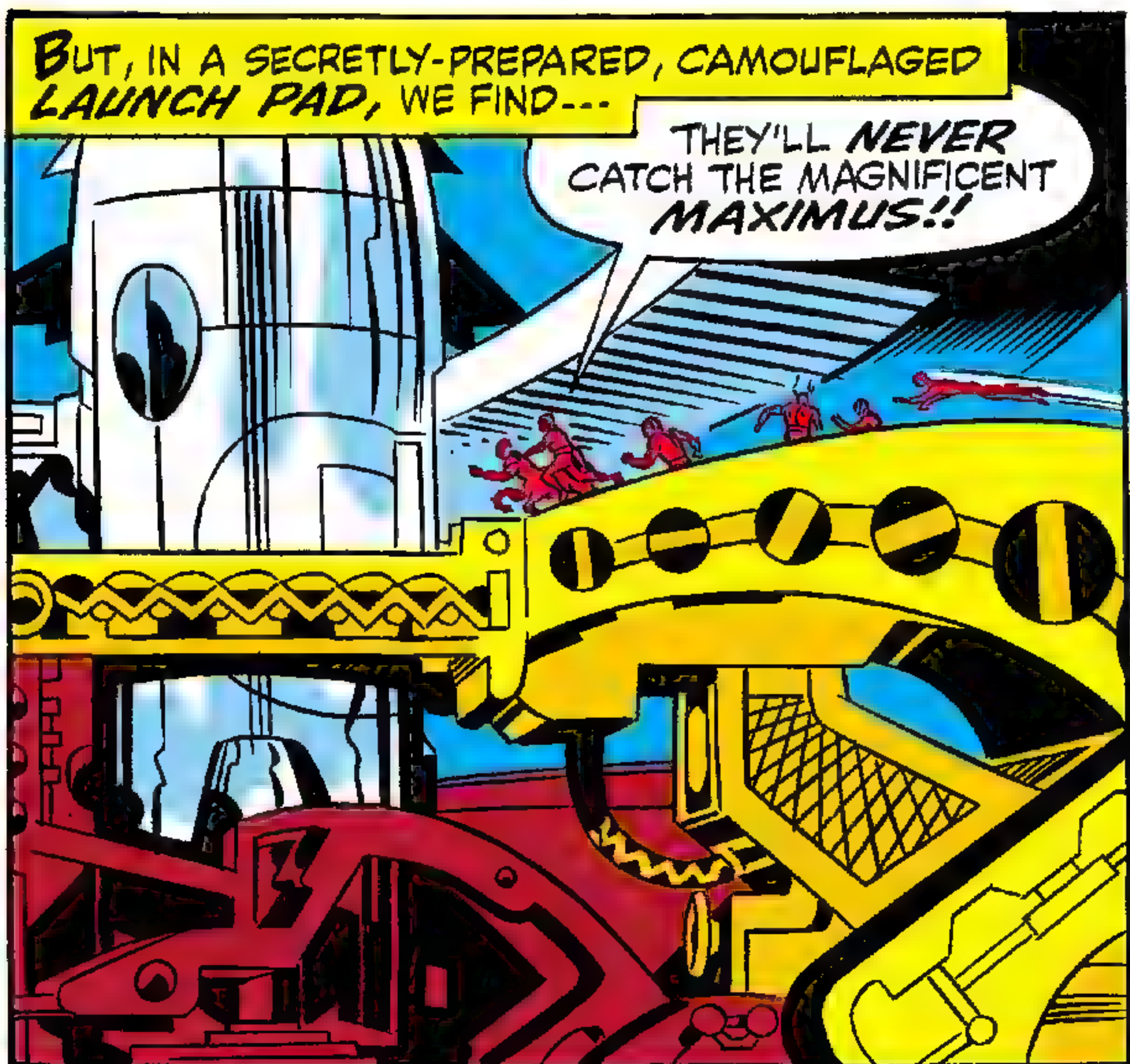


HOW ABOUT
THE **FF??**

**WE'VE GOT
A SCORE TO
SETTLE TOO!**

**JOHNNY!
YOU FOUND
ME!**





NEXT THE LORD OF LATVERIA!

FANTASTIC
FOUR

12¢

84
MAR



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!



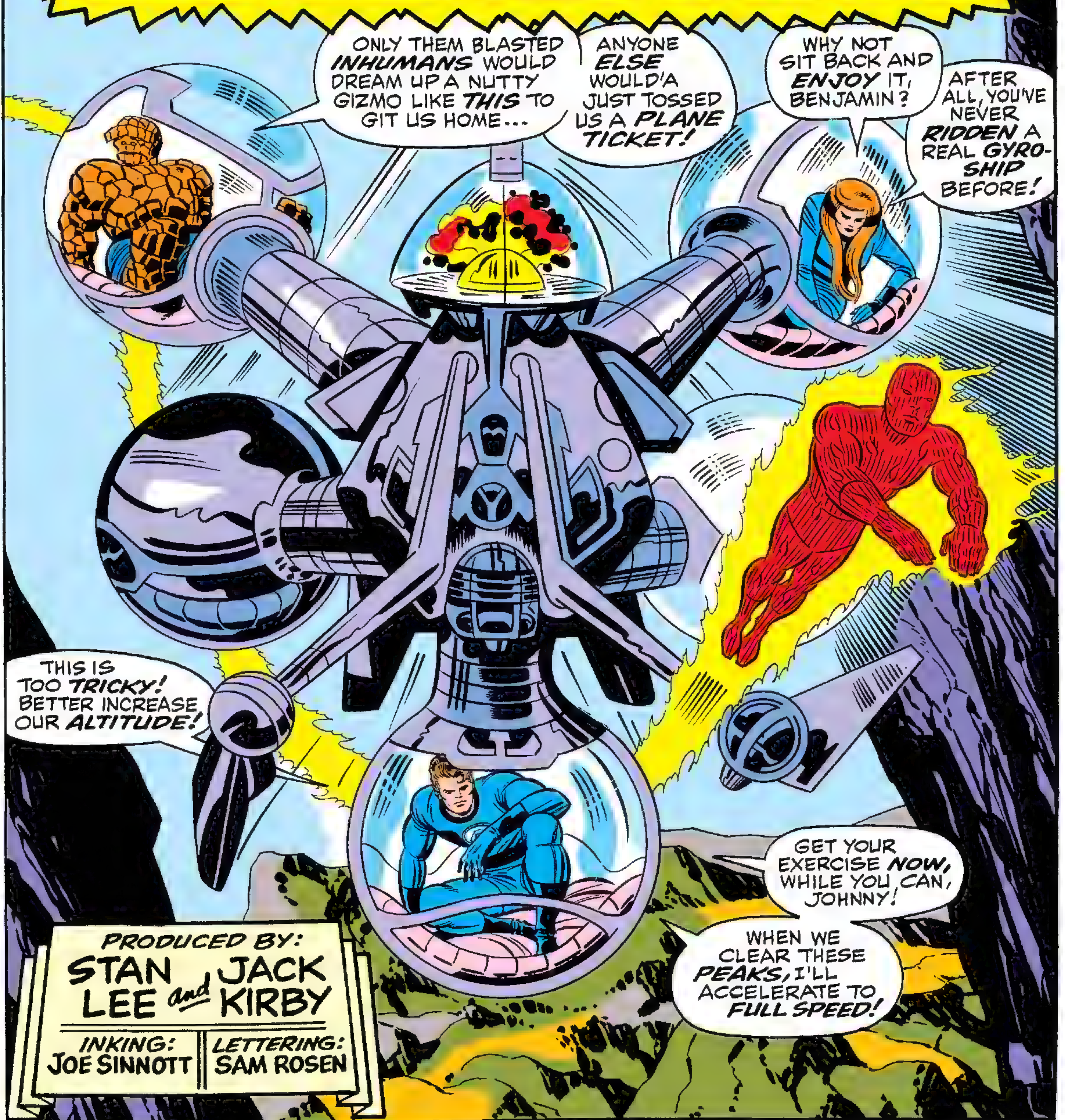
Fantastic FOUR™

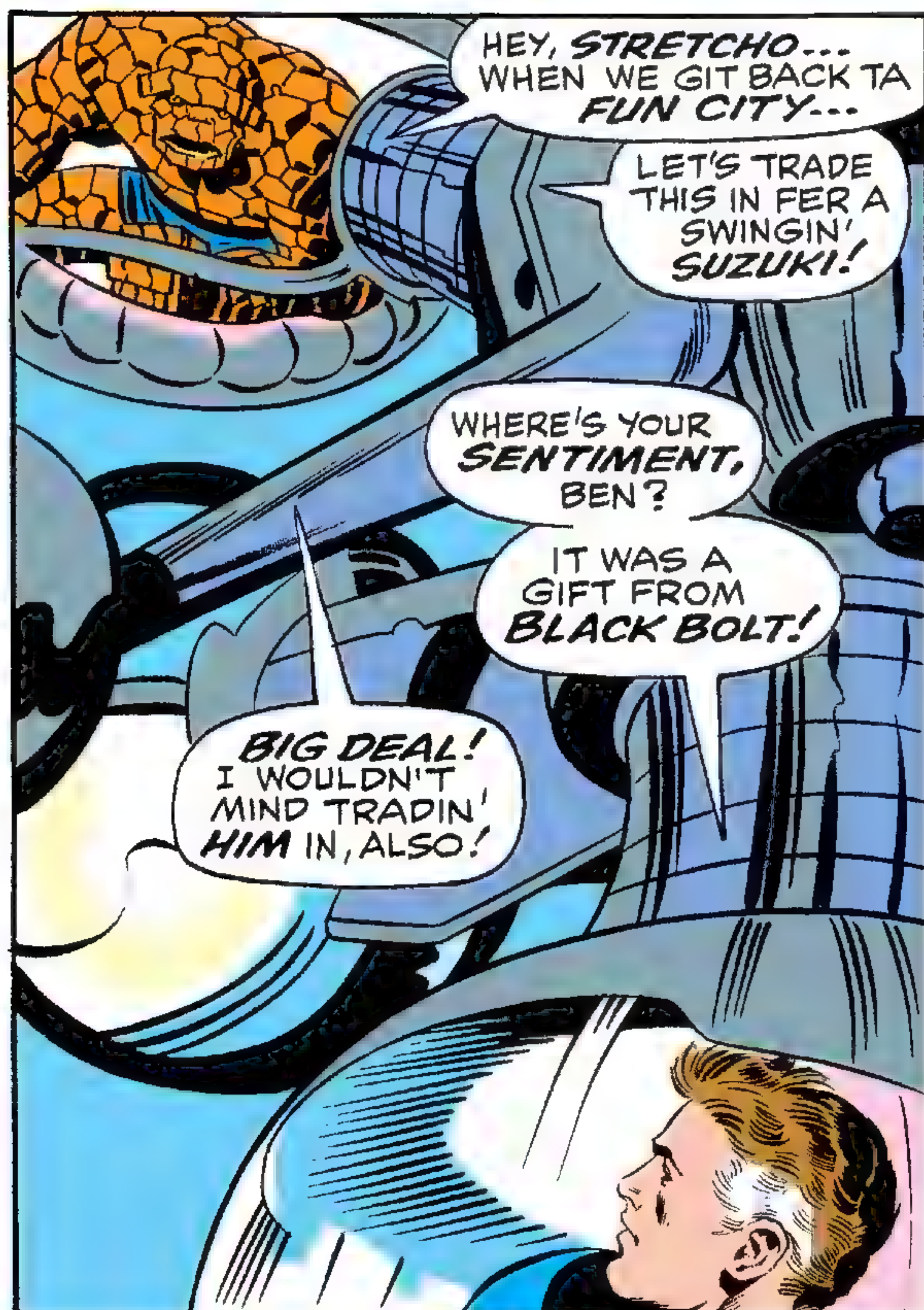
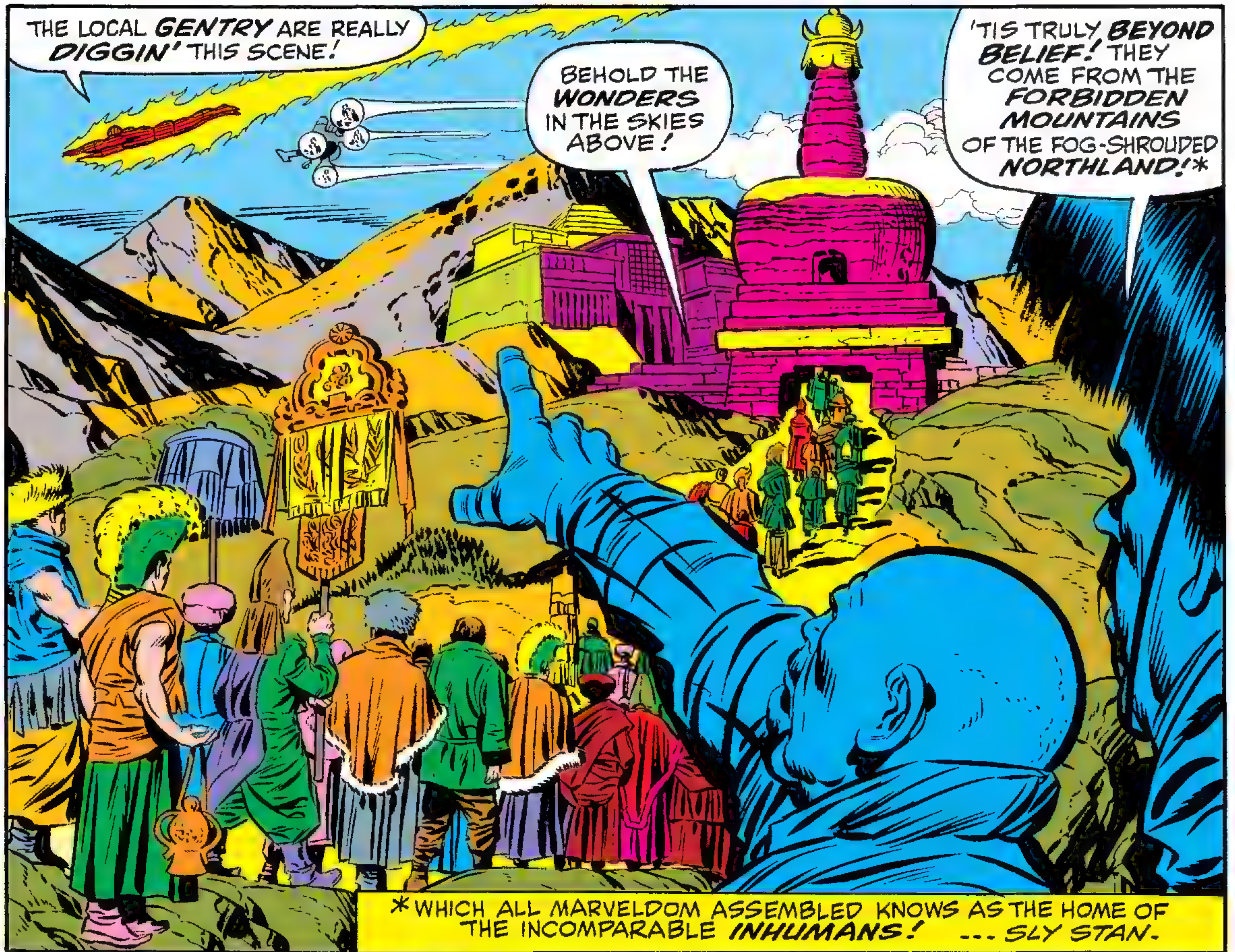
THE NAME IS--
DOOM!

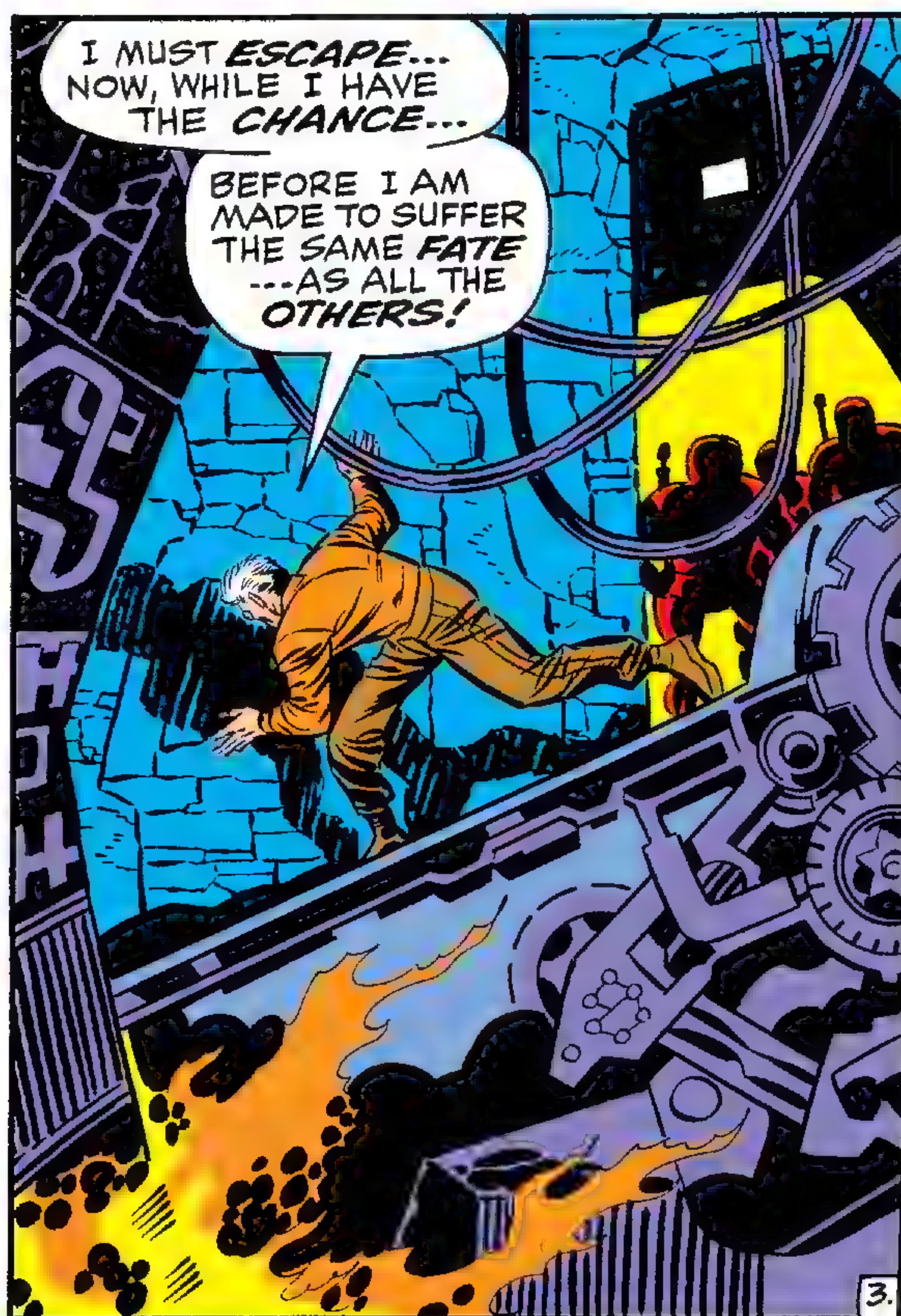
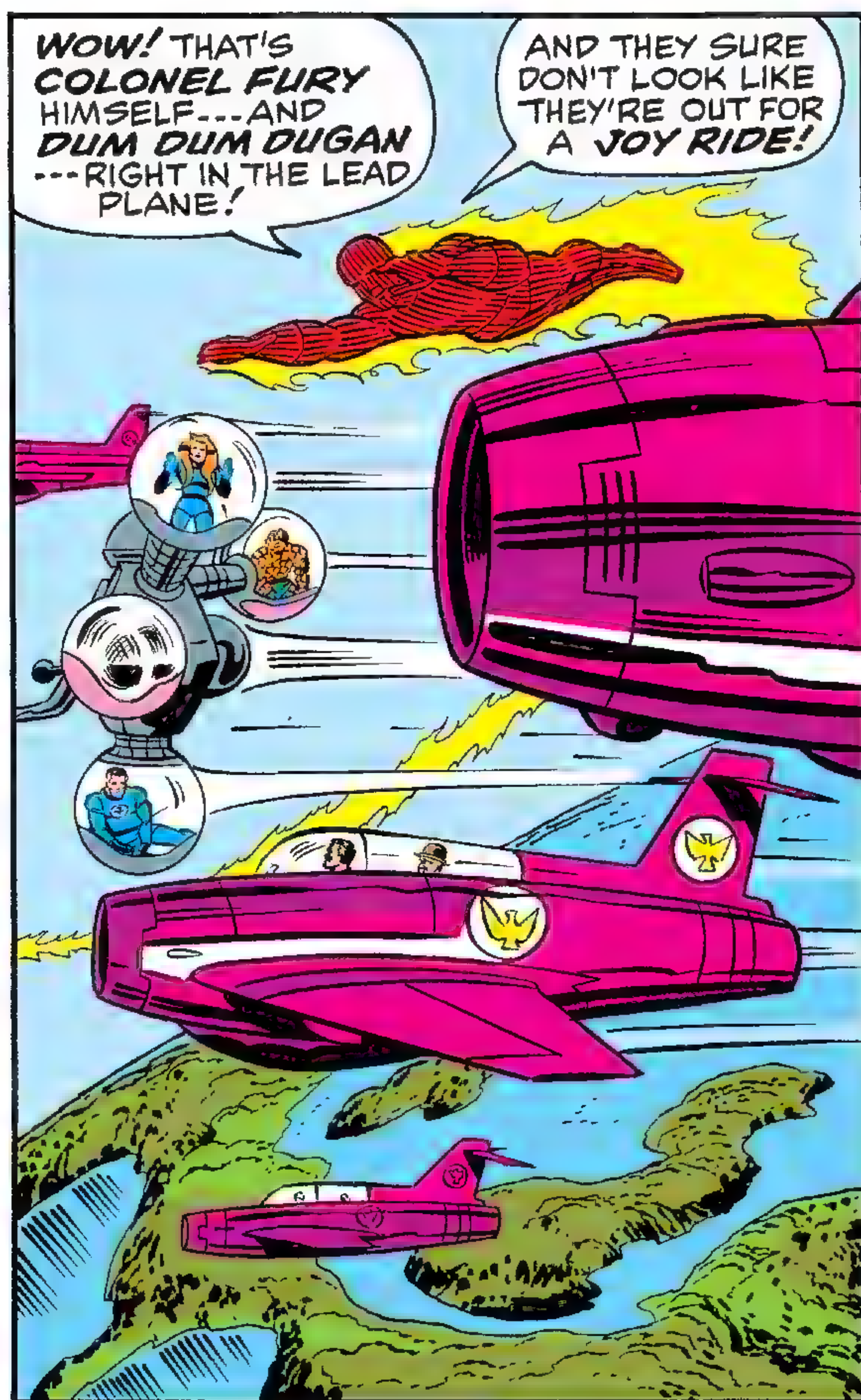
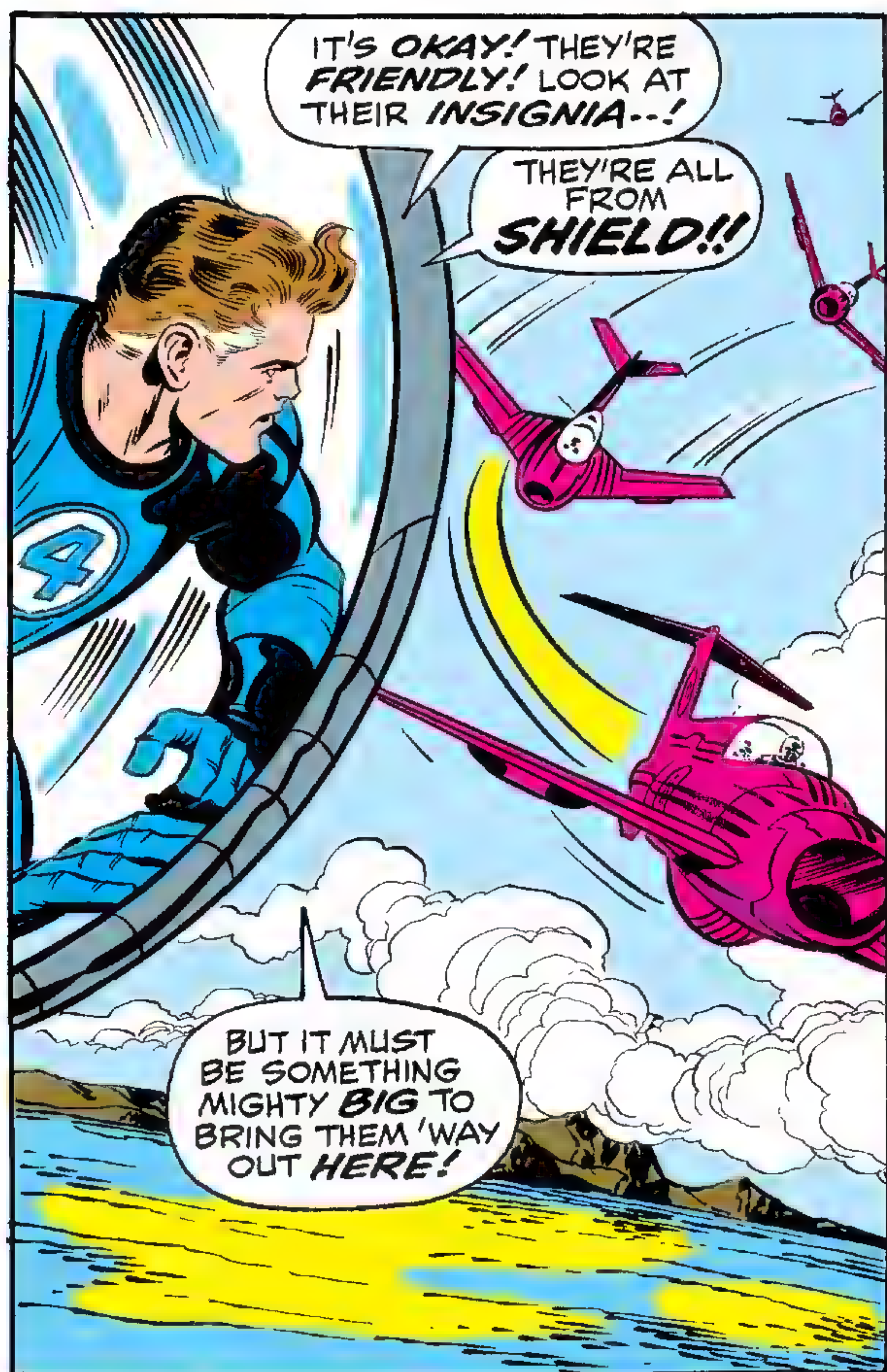


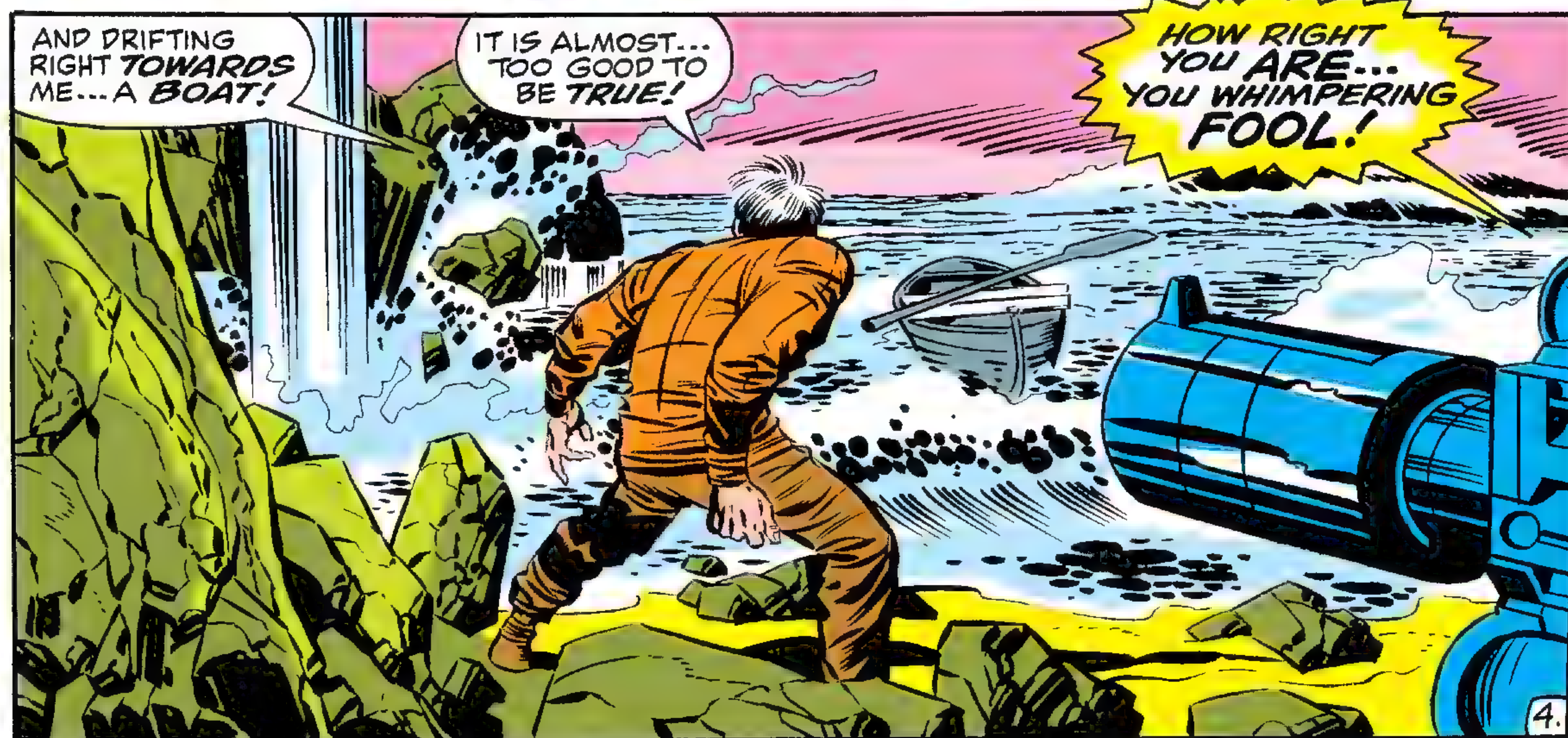
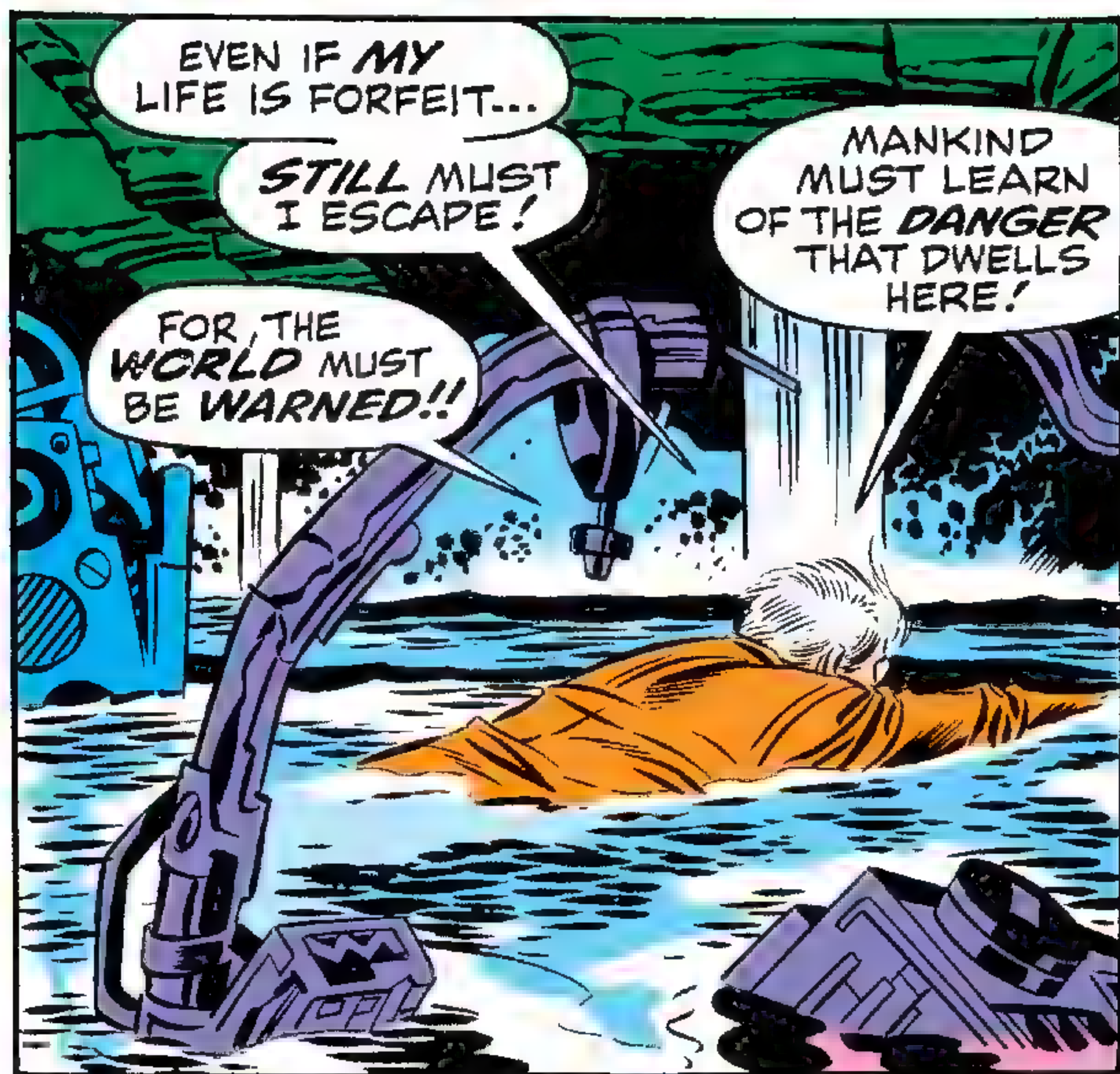
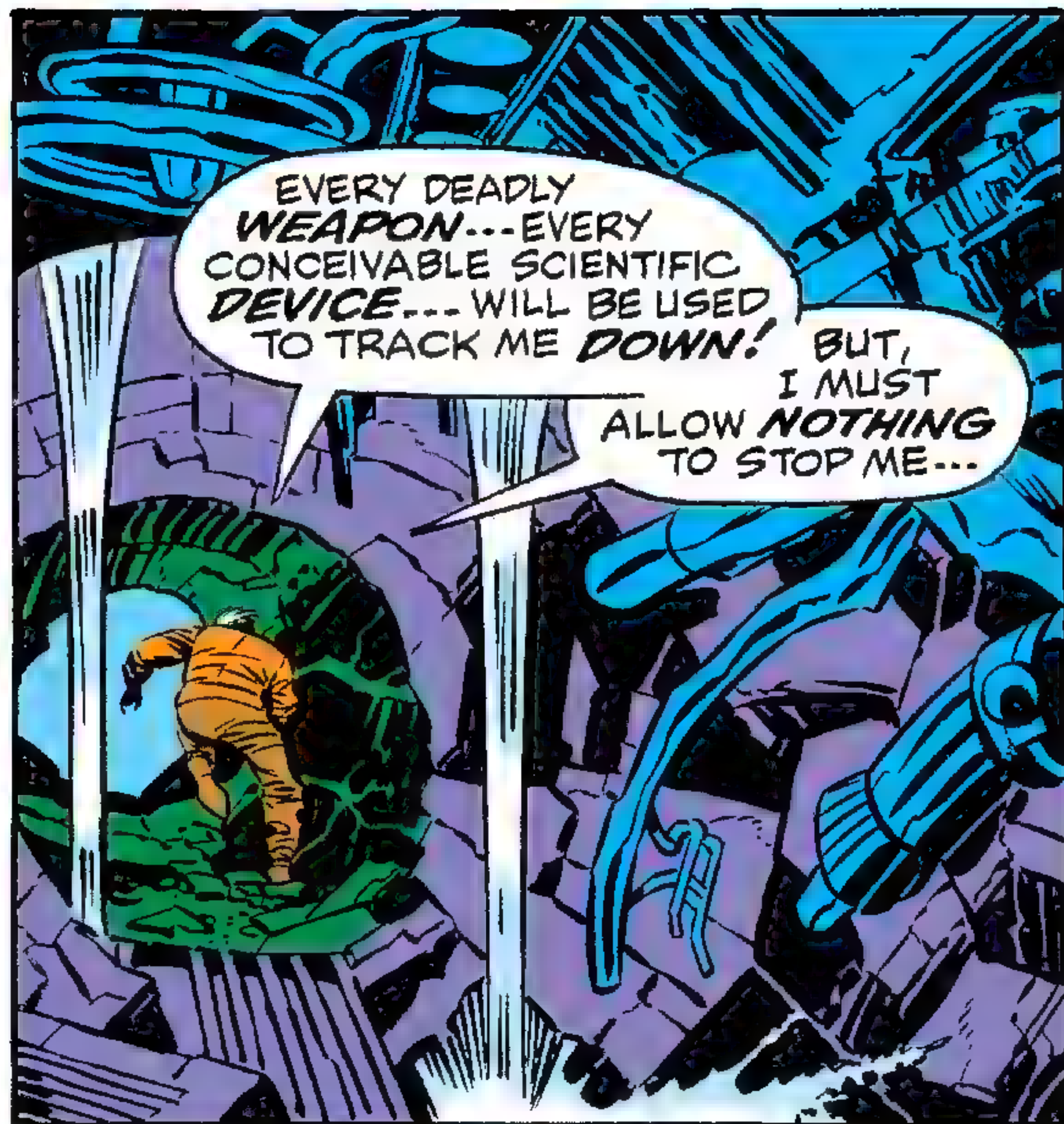
THE FABULOUS F.F. BATTLE AGAIN THEIR DEADLIEST FOE!

THE NAME IS DOOM!









HAVE I NOT
TOLD YOU
HOW I DEARLY
LOVE MY
SUBJECTS?

DID YOU
THINK I
WOULD **ALLOW**
A SINGLE ONE TO
LEAVE THIS
REALM?

THE **WELFARE**
OF MY PEOPLE IS
EVER **CLOSEST**
TO MY HEART!

WHAT A
PITY THAT I
AM SO OFTEN
FORCED TO **SAVE**
YOU FROM **YOUR-
SELVES!**

THAT IS
WHY MY
INVINCIBLE
ROBOT ARMY
STANDS GUARD
BOTH NIGHT
AND DAY!

FOR NO ONE
KNOWS WHAT IS
BEST FOR YOU...
EXCEPT YOUR MIGHTY
SOVEREIGN...
DOCTOR
DOOM!



BUT, I SEE THAT MY SOLILOQUEY DOES NOT **MOVE** YOU!

THUS, I AM COMPELLED TO USE A MORE **DIRECT** APPROACH!



SEIZE HIM, MY LOYAL ONES!

WHEN HE **AWAKES**, NO LONGER WILL HE BE... A **REBEL**!

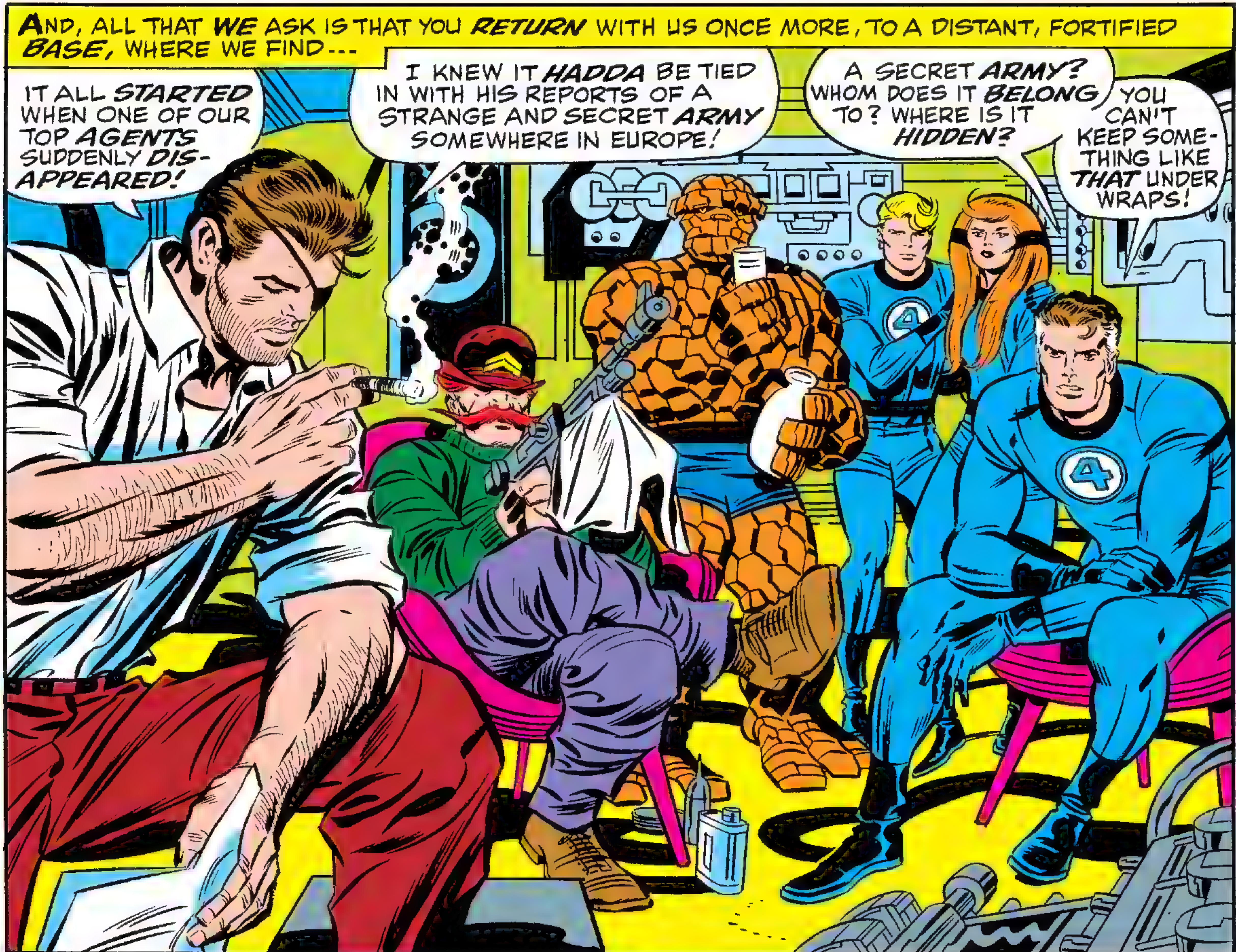


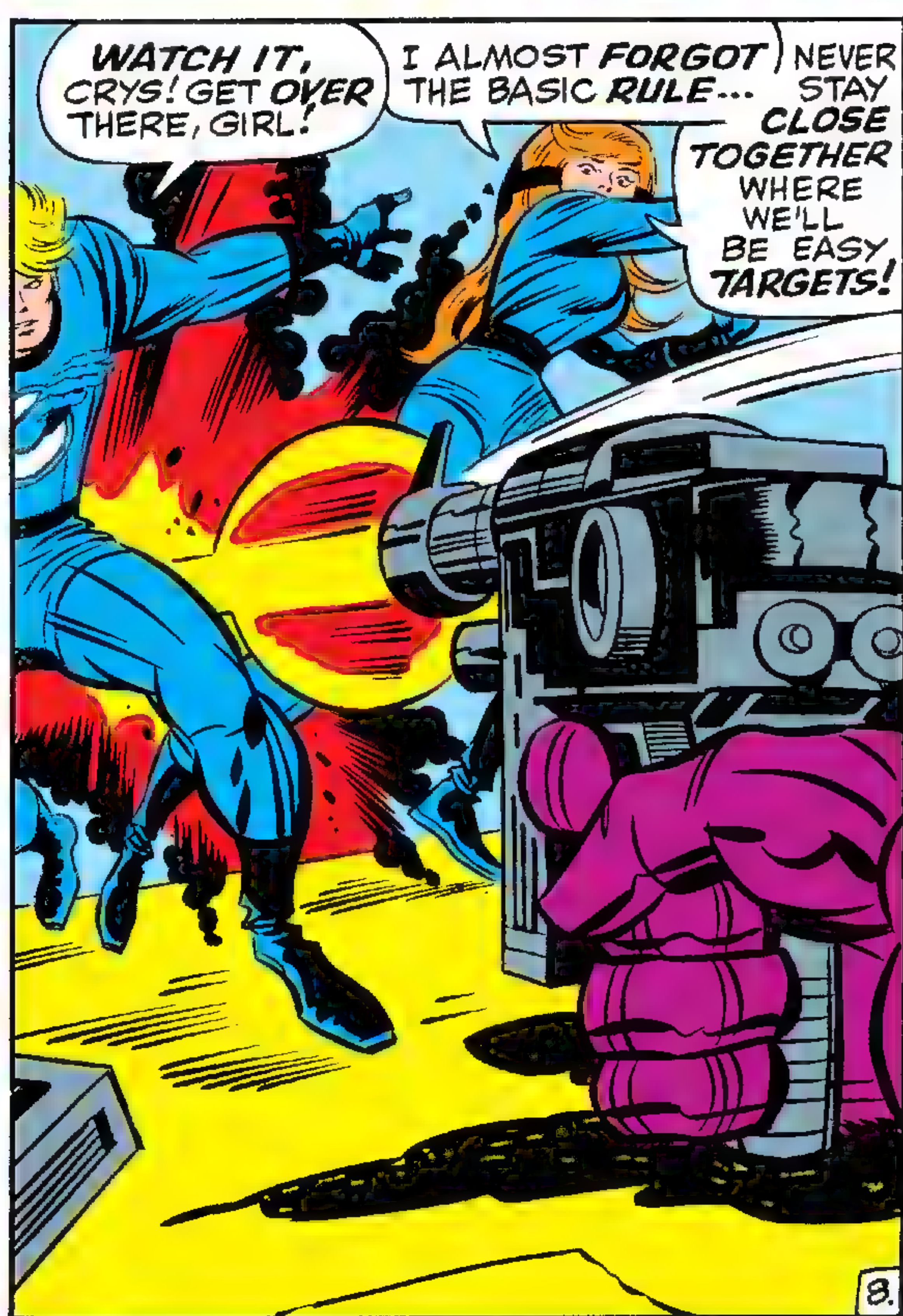
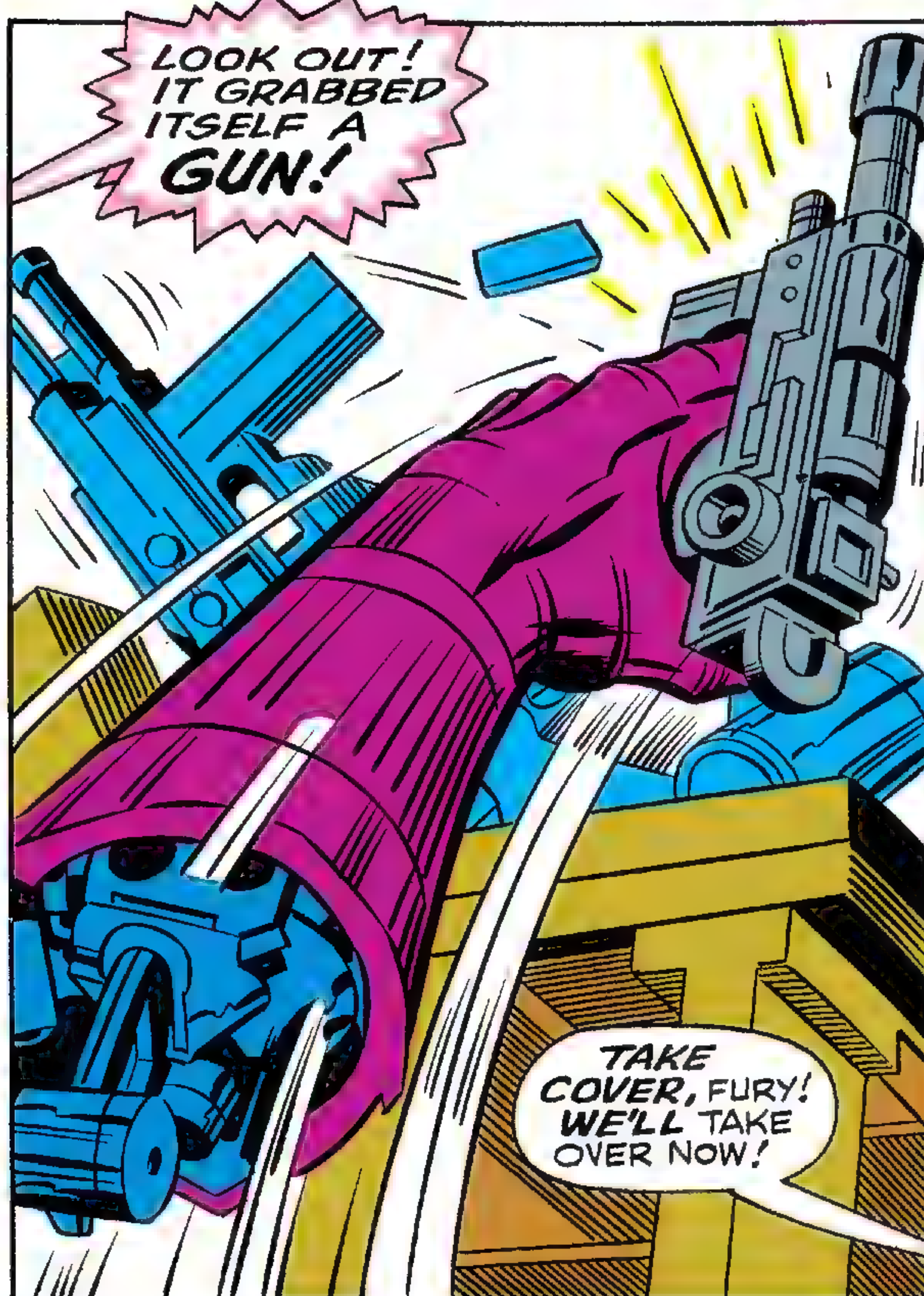
HOW **UNGRATEFUL** ARE THOSE WHO WILL NOT **ACCEPT** THE RULE OF **DOCTOR DOOM**!

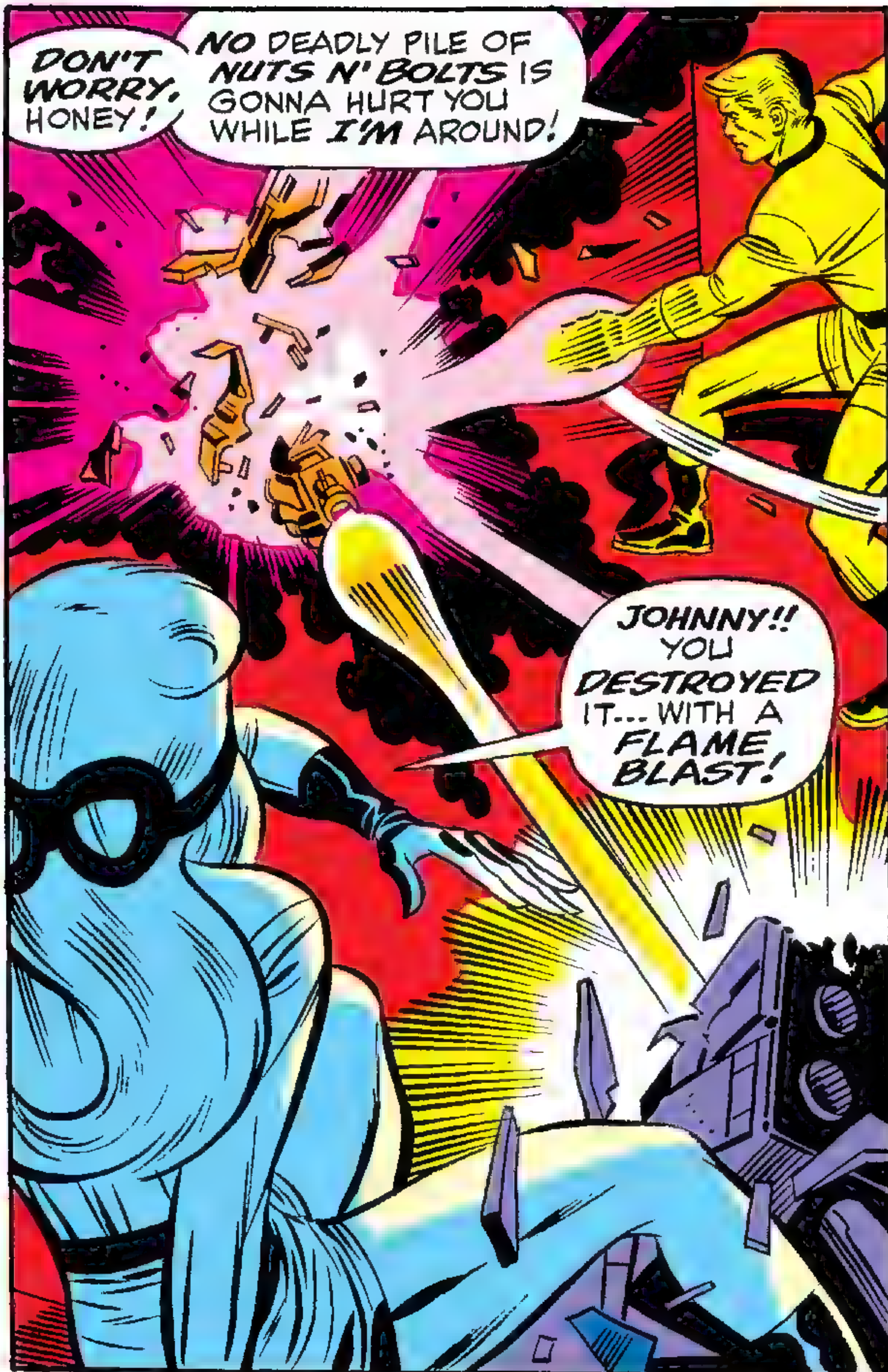


DO I NOT GIVE THEM **SHELTER**... PROVIDE THEM WITH **FOOD**?

AND ALL THAT I ASK IS **TOTAL, BLIND OBEDIENCE**!







DON'T WORRY, HONEY!

NO DEADLY PILE OF NUTS N' BOLTS IS GONNA HURT YOU WHILE I'M AROUND!

JOHNNY!! YOU DESTROYED IT... WITH A FLAME BLAST!



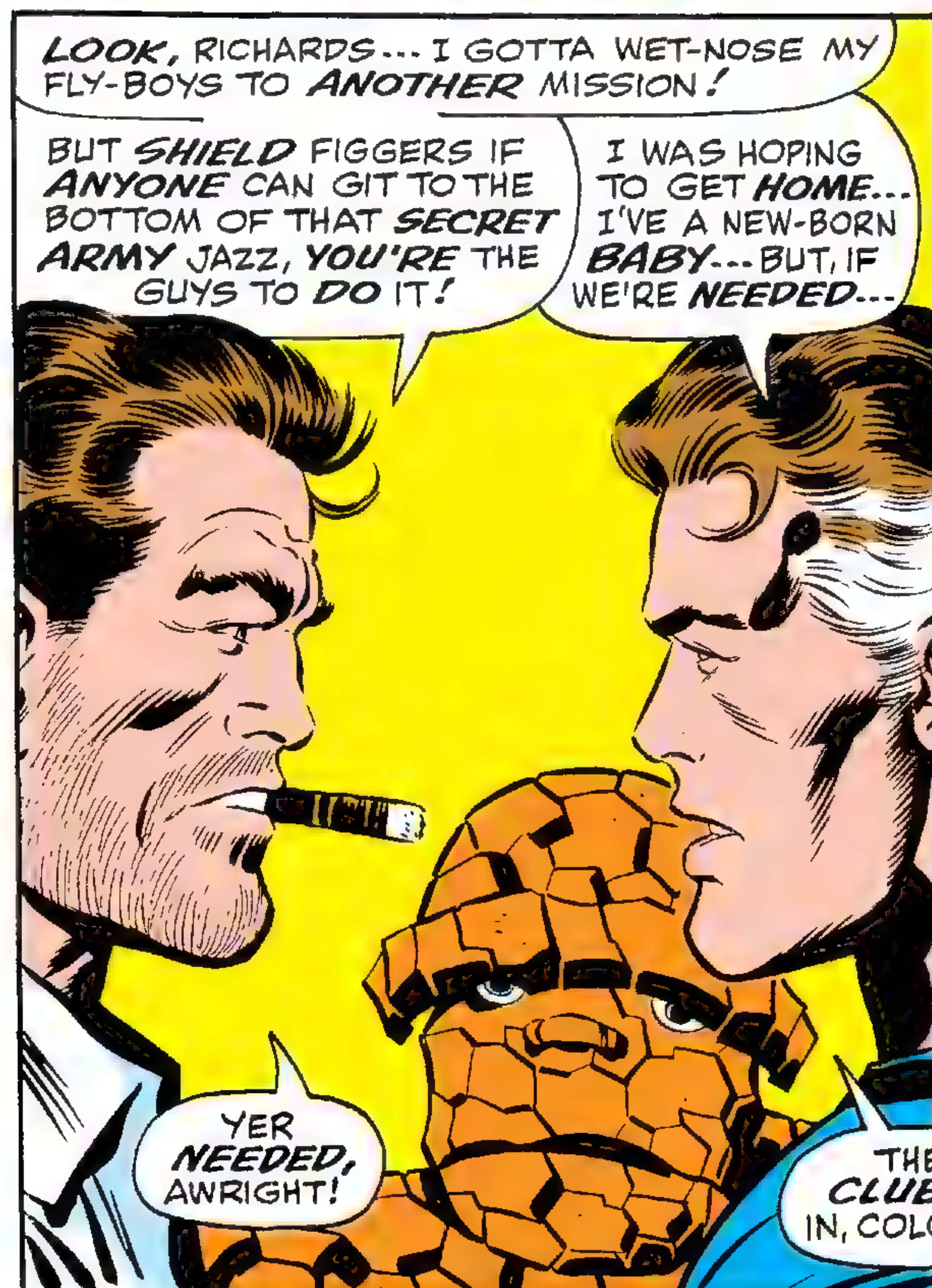
YOU GOT ROCKS IN YER HEAD, KID?

THAT WAS OUR ONLY SPECIMEN! WE WERE BRINGIN' IT TO TONY STARK... FER ANALYSIS!

TOO BAD, COLONEL! IT HAPPENS THAT CRYSTAL IS MY ONLY CHICK, ALSO!

WATCH HOW YA TALK TO JOHNNY, BIG MOUTH!

HE AIN'T MUCH, BUT HE'S THE ONLY MATCH-HEAD WE GOT!



LOOK, RICHARDS... I GOTTA WET-NOSE MY FLY-BOYS TO ANOTHER MISSION!

BUT SHIELD FIGGERS IF ANYONE CAN GIT TO THE BOTTOM OF THAT SECRET ARMY JAZZ, YOU'RE THE GUYS TO DO IT!

I WAS HOPING TO GET HOME... I'VE A NEW-BORN BABY... BUT, IF WE'RE NEEDED...

YER NEEDED, AWRIGHT!

THEN CLUE US IN, COLONEL!



AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT YER GYRO-SHIP!

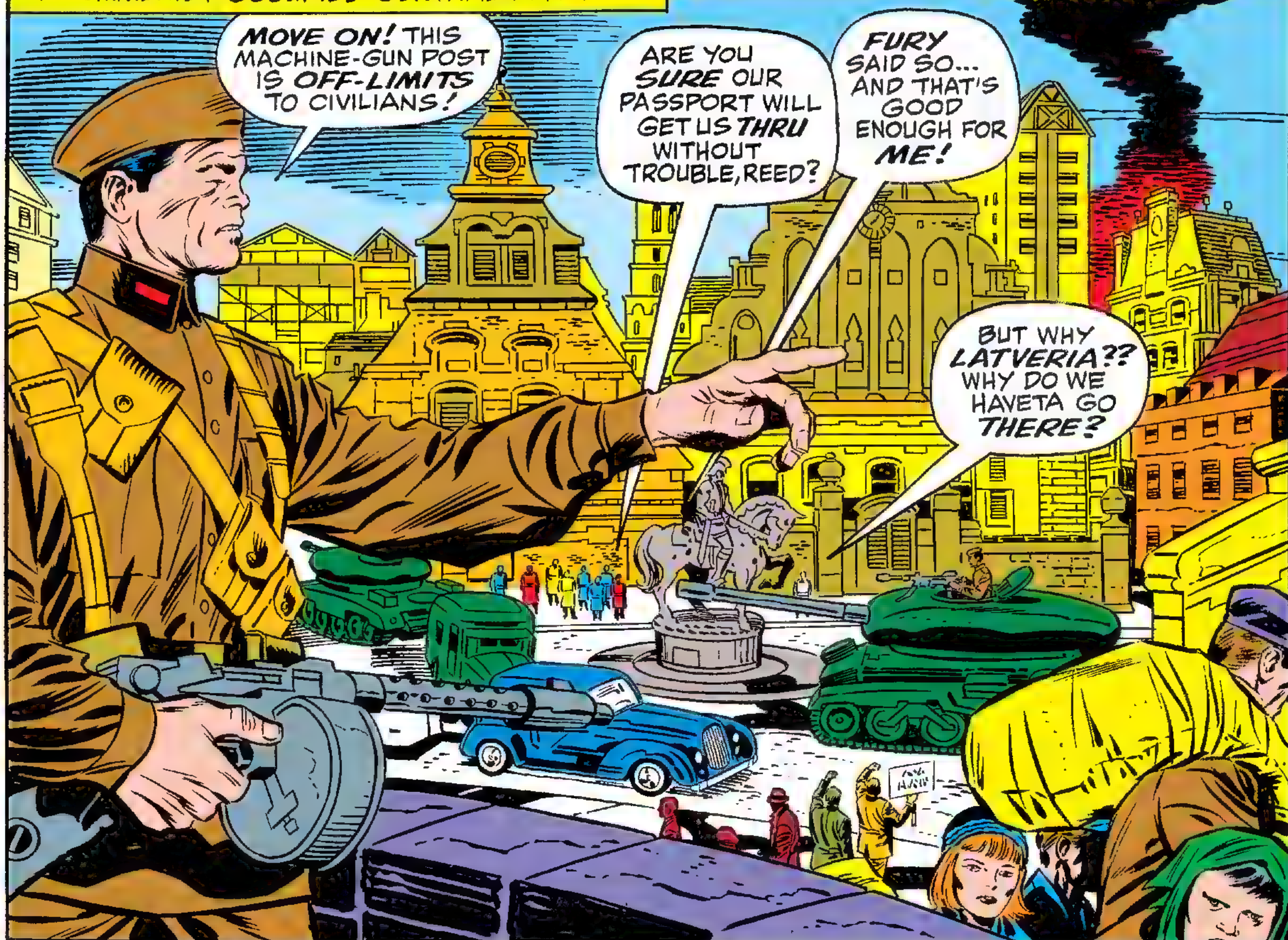
NOW, THIS IS WHAT YER GONNA HAVE TO DO...!

I'LL SWEEP UP THE PIECES, NICK...

WE'LL GIT IT BACK TO THE STATES FOR YA!

MEBBE STARK CAN STILL MAKE SOMETHIN' OUTTA THEM!

SOMETIME LATER, A HIGH-POWERED TOURING CAR CAUTIOUSLY JOURNEYS THRU THE HEART OF COMMUNIST-OCCUPIED CENTRAL EUROPE...

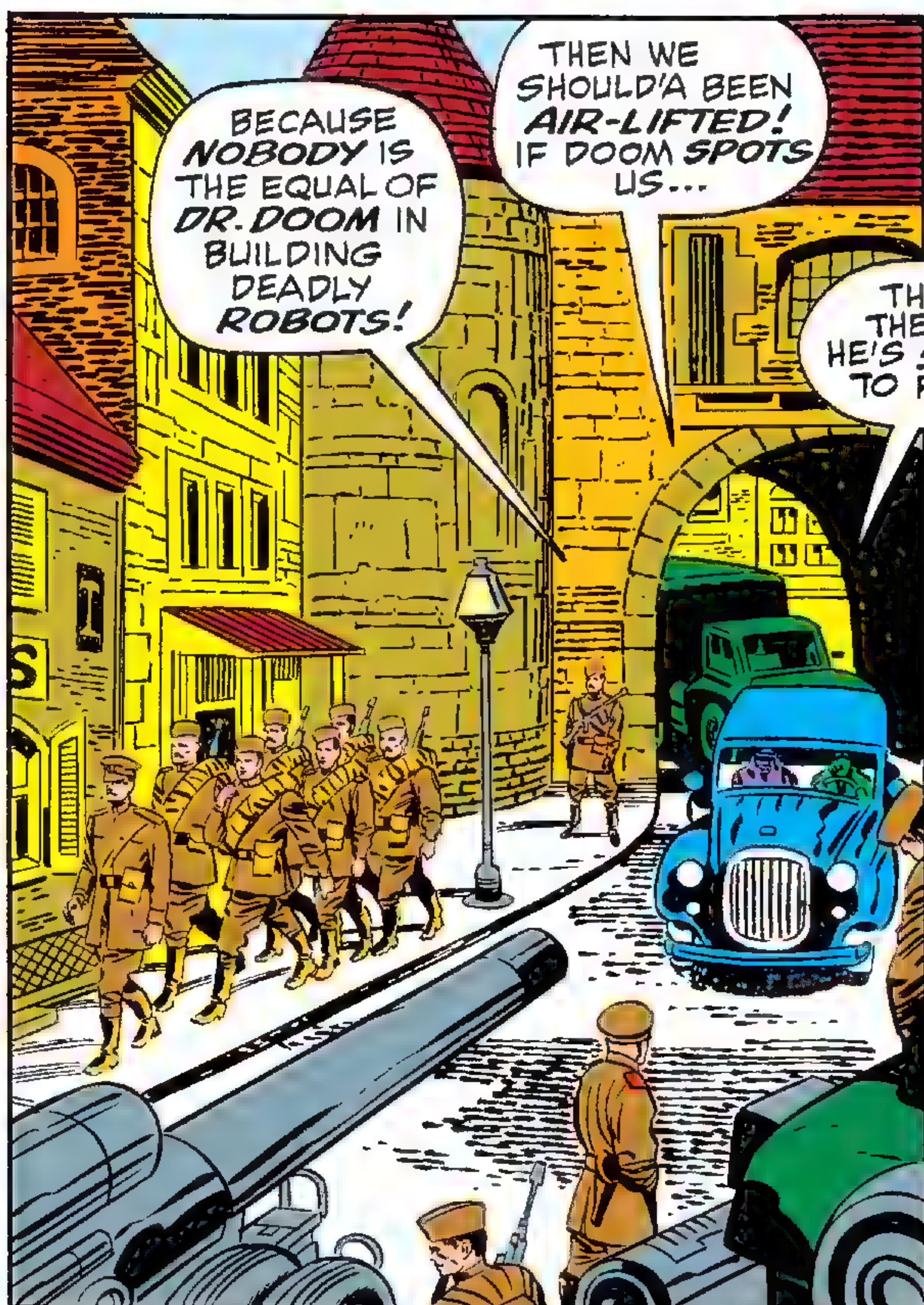


MOVE ON! THIS MACHINE-GUN POST IS OFF-LIMITS TO CIVILIANS!

ARE YOU SURE OUR PASSPORT WILL GET US THRU WITHOUT TROUBLE, REED?

FURY SAID SO... AND THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME!

BUT WHY LATVERIA?? WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO THERE?



BECAUSE NOBODY IS THE EQUAL OF DR. DOOM IN BUILDING DEADLY ROBOTS!

THEN WE SHOULD'A BEEN AIR-LIFTED! IF DOOM SPOTS US...

THAT'S THE IDEA! HE'S SUPPOSED TO FIND US!



ONLY BY BEING CAPTURED CAN WE LEARN WHAT WE MUST...

HOLD IT! WE'VE COME TO ANOTHER CHECKPOINT!

YOU ARE BOUND FOR LATVERIA?

THAT CAN BE ...MOST UNWISE!

WE'LL HAVE TO CHANCE IT!

WE HAVE BUSINESS THERE!



I MUST
WARN
YOU...

NEITHER **YOUR**
GOVERNMENT...NOR
MINE...CAN OFFER
PROTECTION TO **ANY**
WHO CROSS THE
BORDER INTO
LATVERIA!

WE ARE
AWARE OF
THAT...BUT
WE HAVE **NO**
CHOICE!

THE KING-
DOM OF
DR. DOOM IS
AN INDEPENDENT,
TOTALLY-**AUTONO-**
MOUS STATE...
RECOGNIZING **NO**
TREATIES...NO
INTERNATIONAL
LAW!

THEN
PASS!

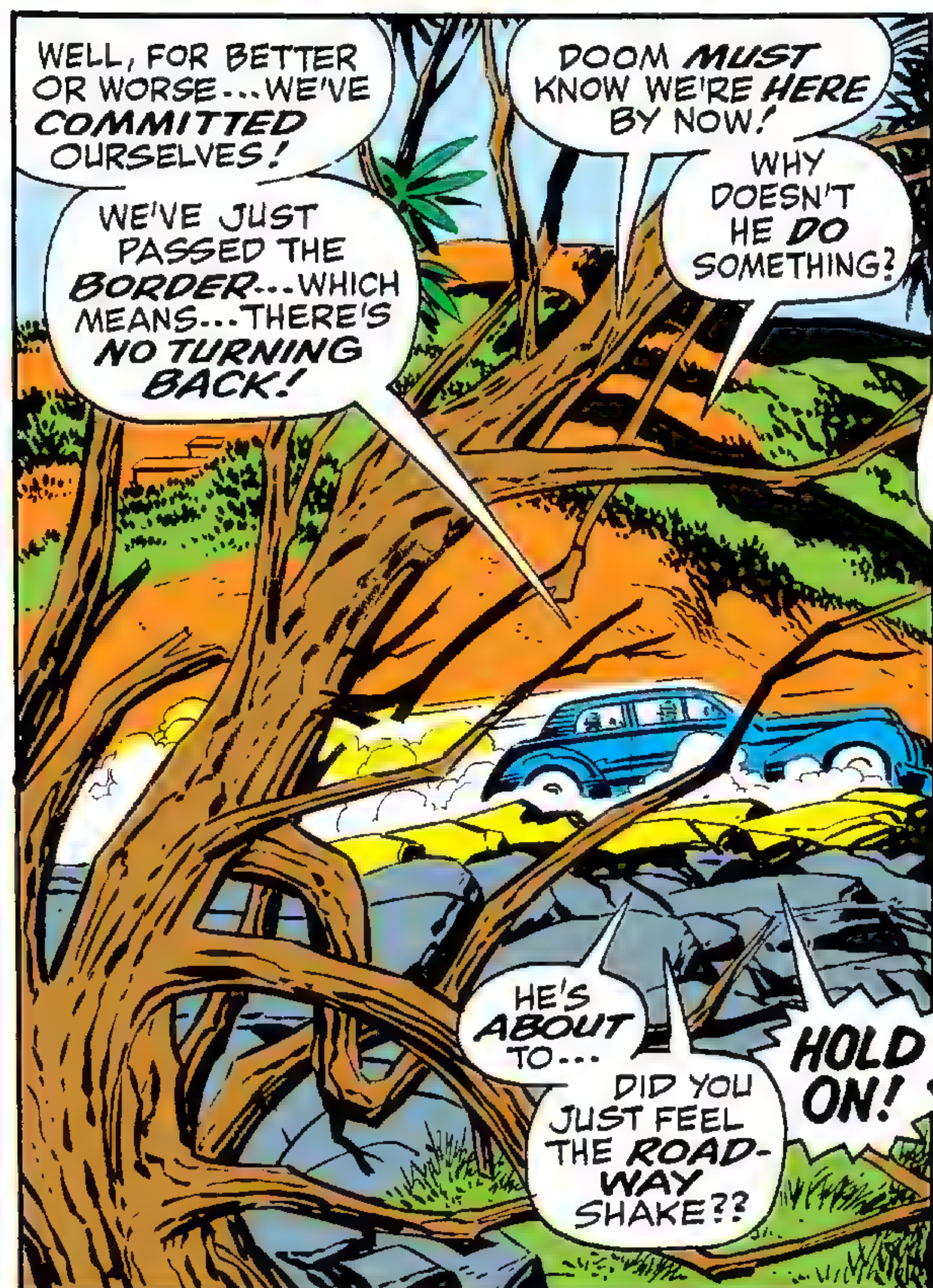
I SALUTE YOUR
COURAGE...
IF NOT YOUR
WISDOM!



THE AMERICAN FOOLS
WILL NEVER BE **HEARD**
OF AGAIN!

NONE WHO ENTERED
THAT ACCURSED LAND
HAVE EVER SINCE
RETURNED!

DA! NOT EVEN
OUR ESPIONAGE
APPARATUS CAN
LEARN THE **SECRET**
THAT LIES BEYOND
THOSE HILLS!



WELL, FOR BETTER
OR WORSE...WE'VE
COMMITTED
OURSELVES!

WE'VE JUST
PASSED THE
BORDER...WHICH
MEANS...THERE'S
NO TURNING
BACK!

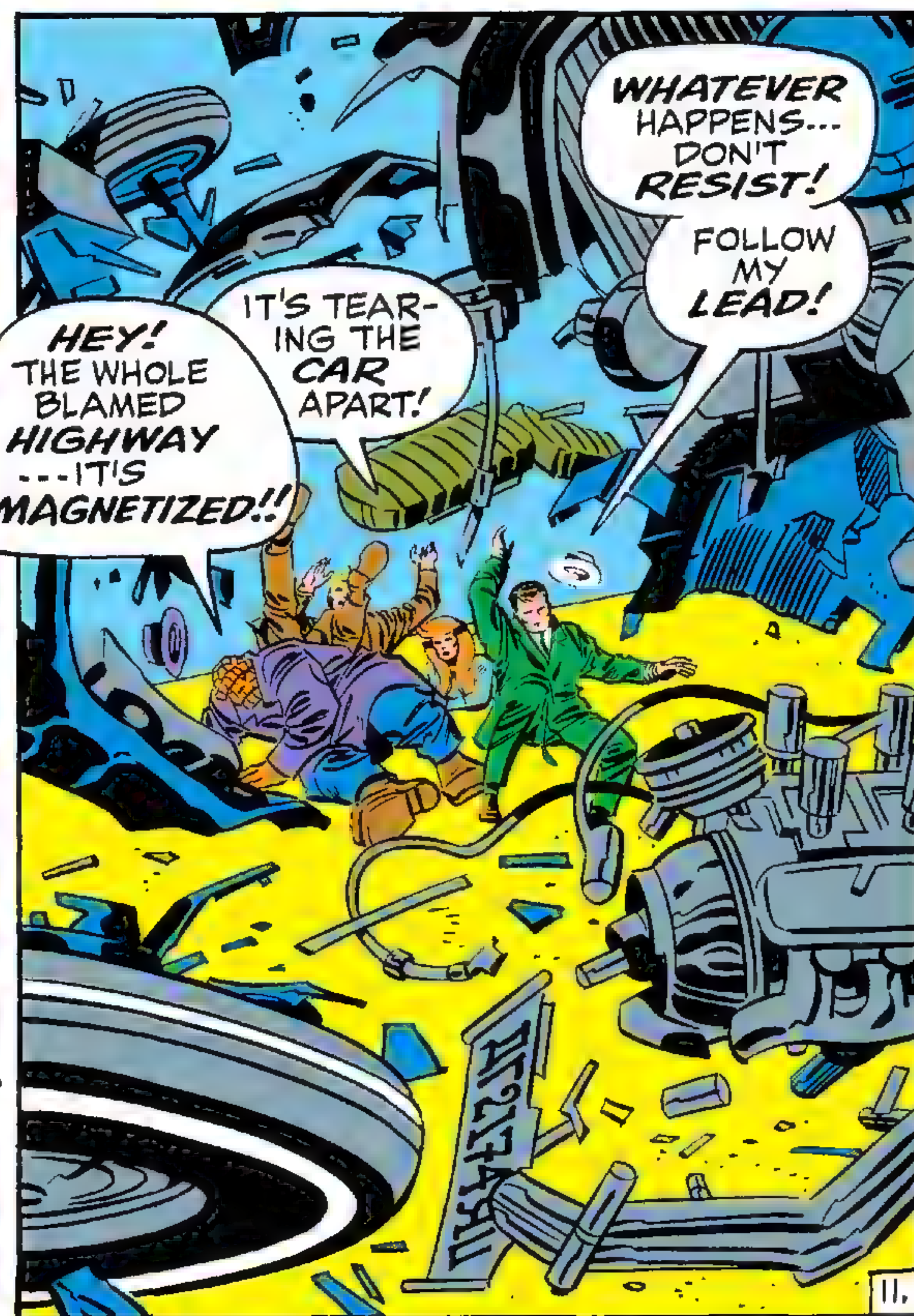
DOOM MUST
KNOW WE'RE **HERE**
BY NOW!

WHY
DOESN'T
HE **DO**
SOMETHING?

HE'S
ABOUT
TO...

DID YOU
JUST FEEL
THE **ROAD-**
WAY
SHAKE??

HOLD
ON!

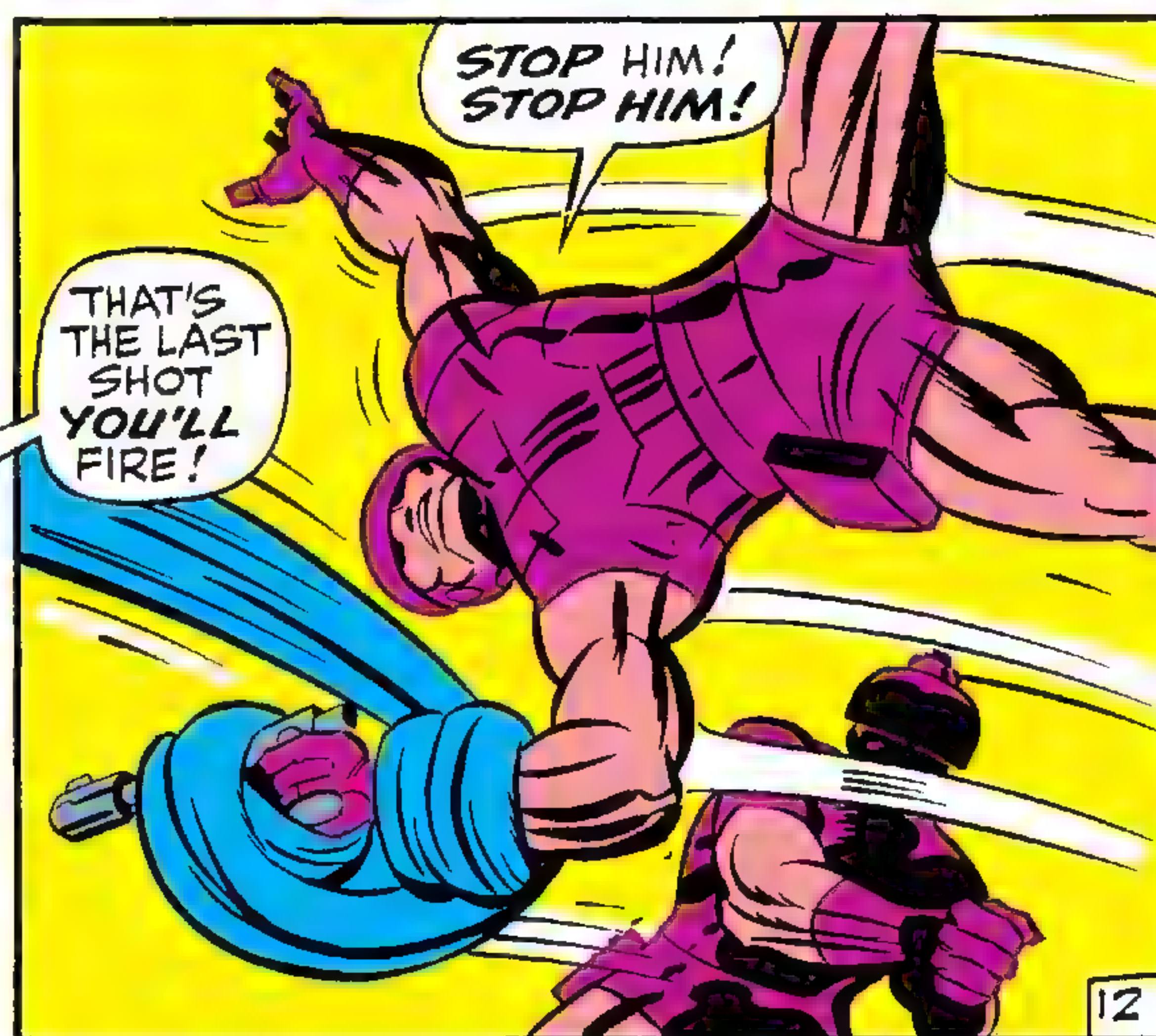
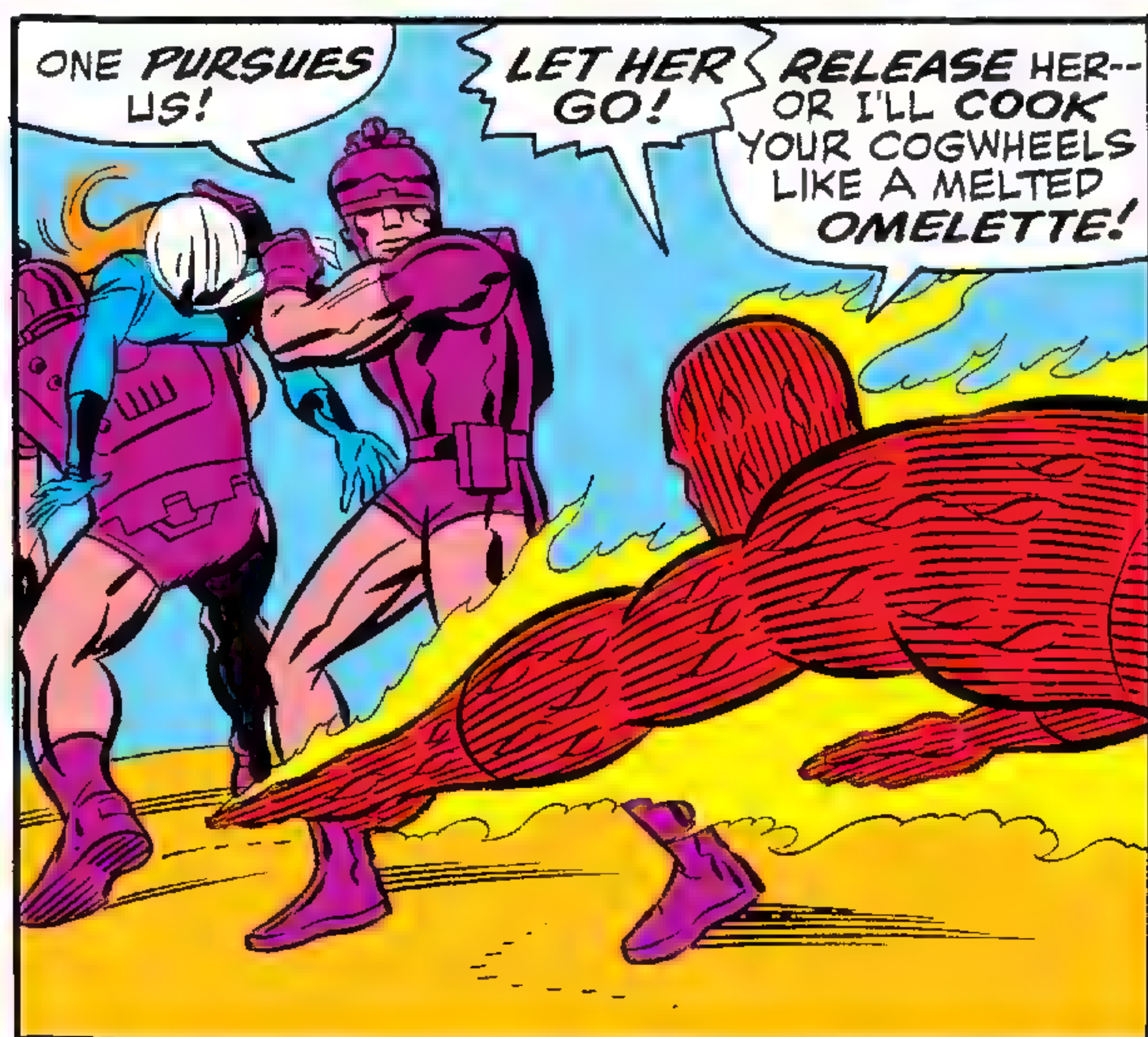
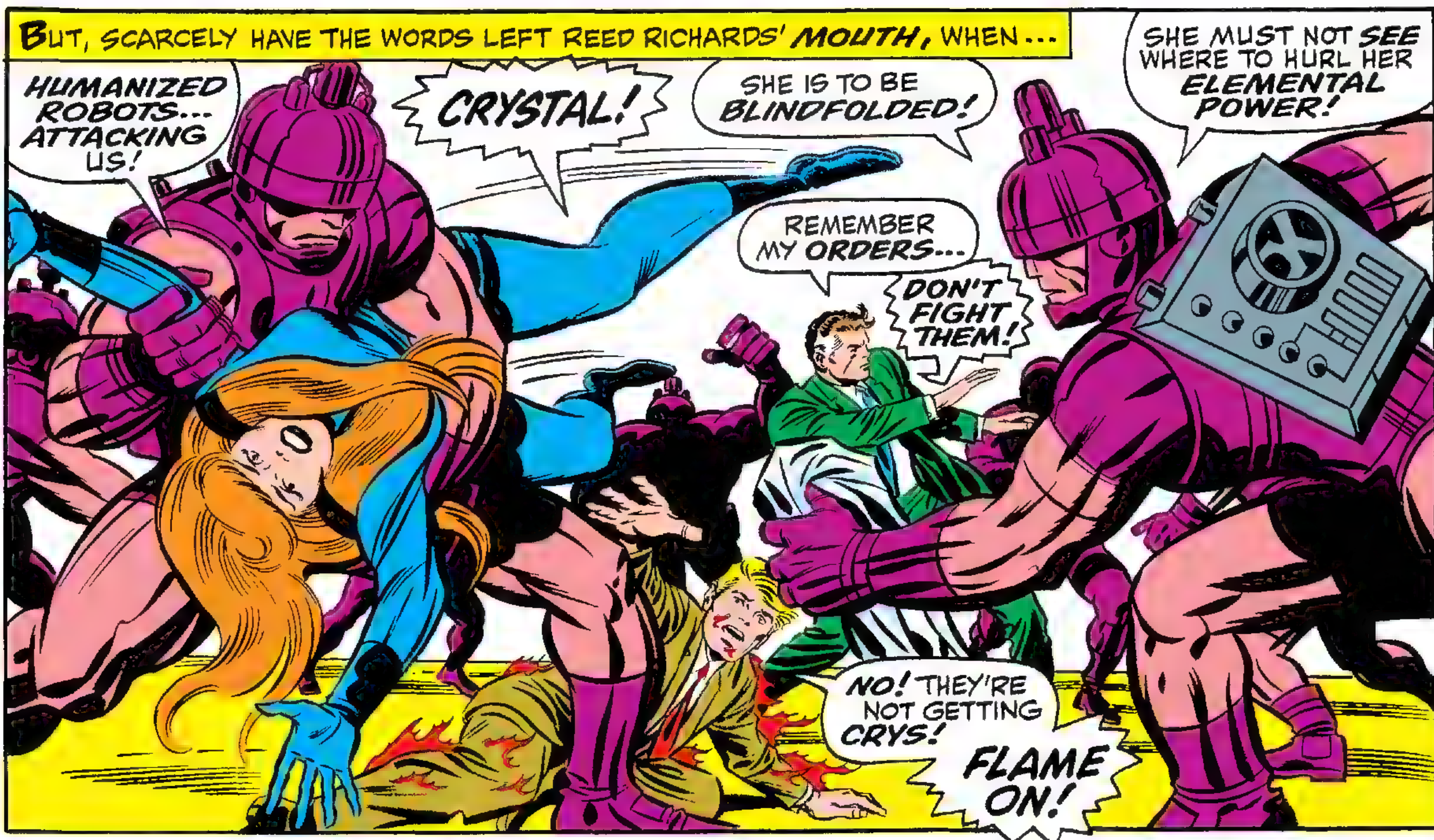


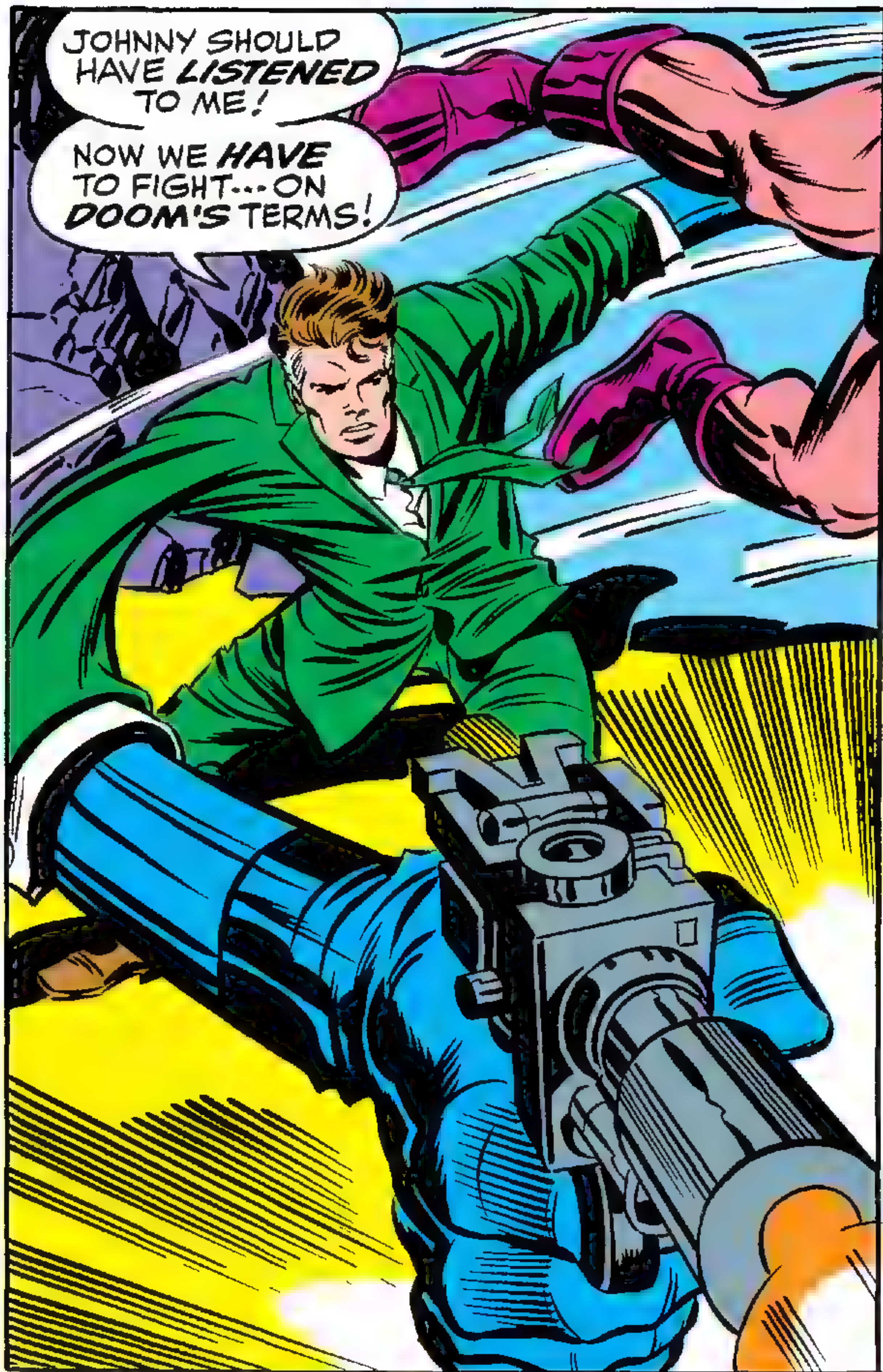
WHATEVER
HAPPENS...
DON'T
RESIST!

FOLLOW
MY
LEAD!

IT'S TEAR-
ING THE
CAR
APART!

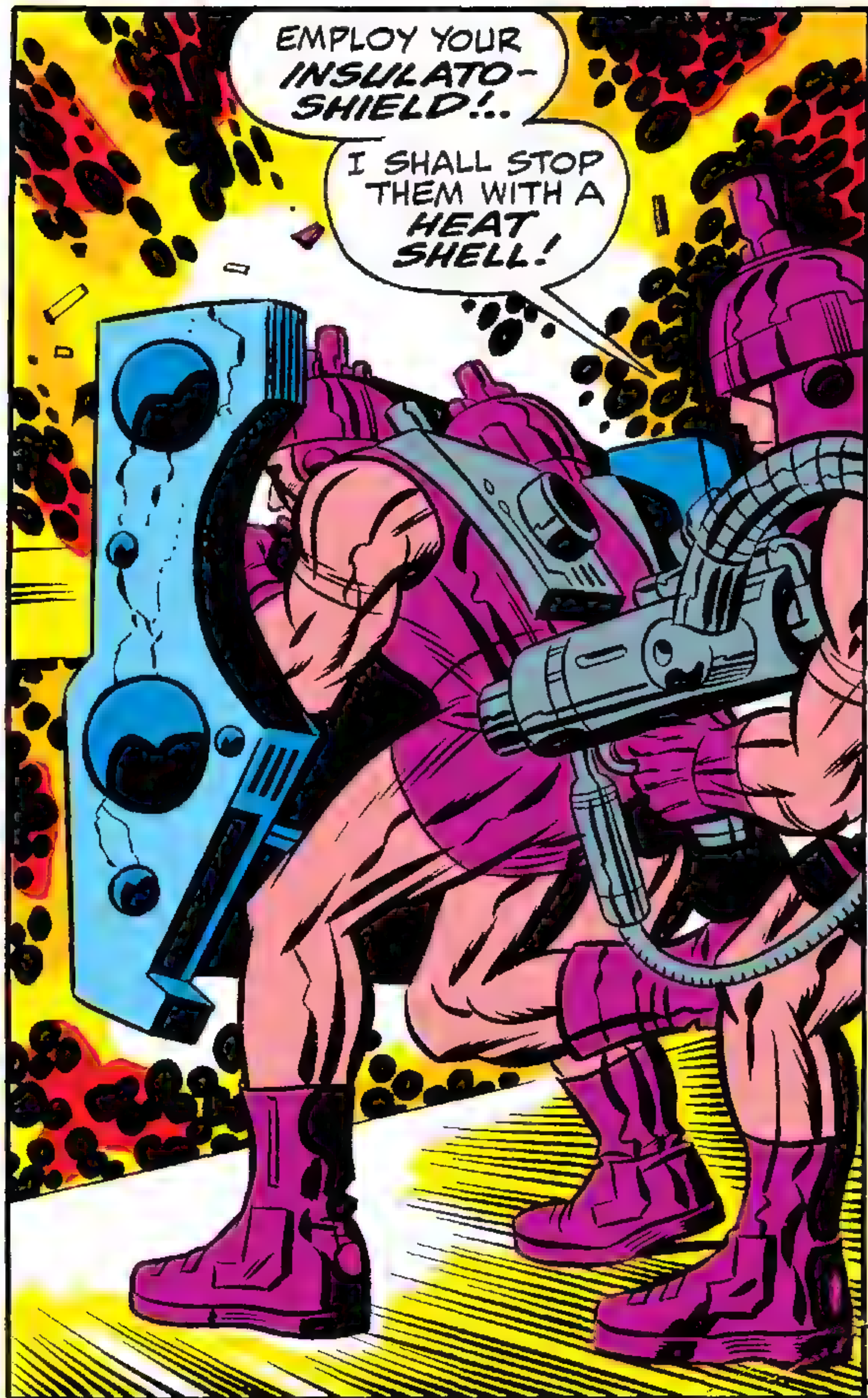
HEY!
THE WHOLE
BLAMED
HIGHWAY
...IT'S
MAGNETIZED!!





JOHNNY SHOULD
HAVE **LISTENED**
TO ME!

NOW WE **HAVE**
TO FIGHT...ON
DOOM'S TERMS!



EMPLOY YOUR
**INSULATO-
SHIELD!..**

I SHALL STOP
THEM WITH A
**HEAT
SHELL!**



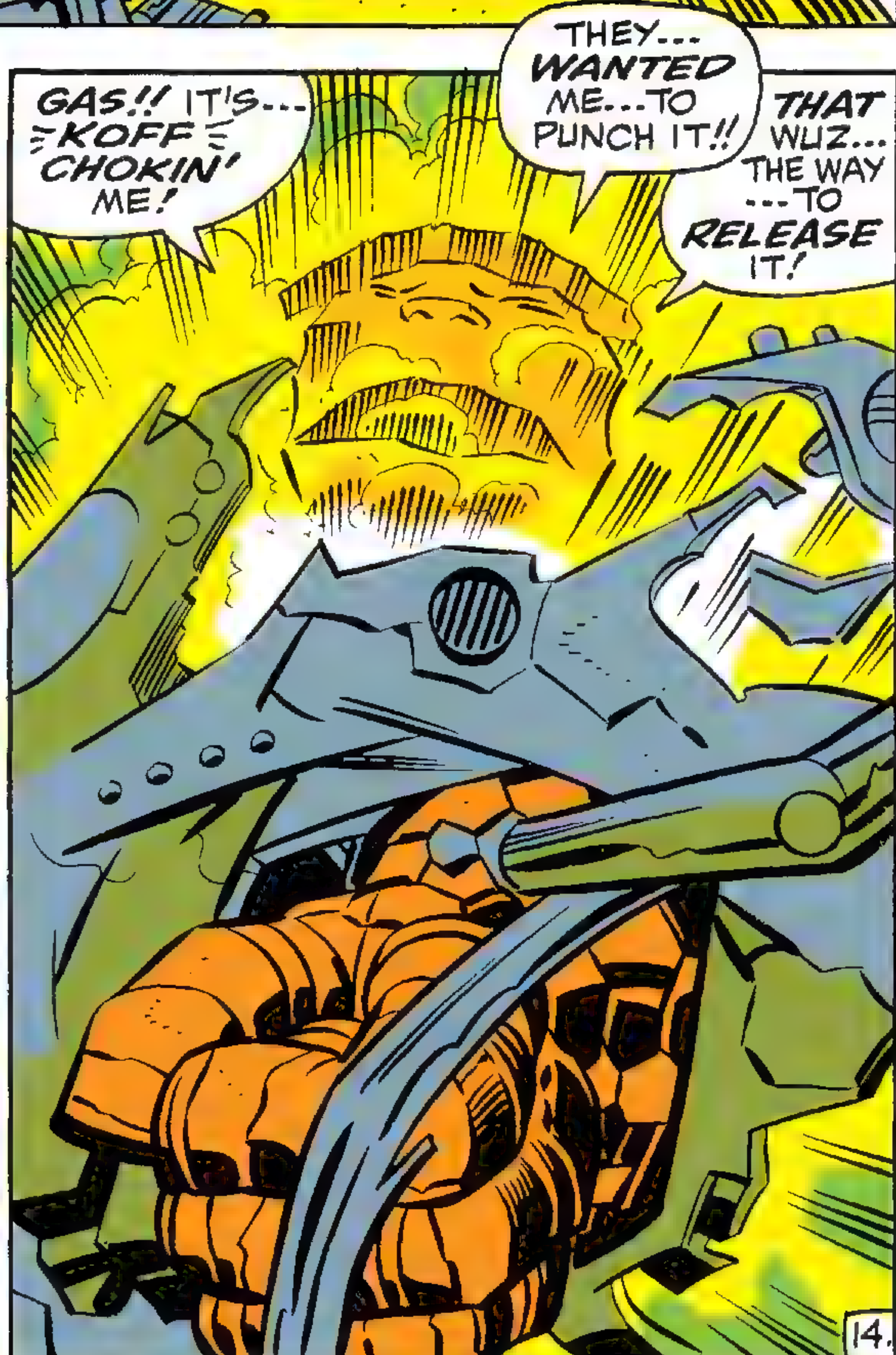
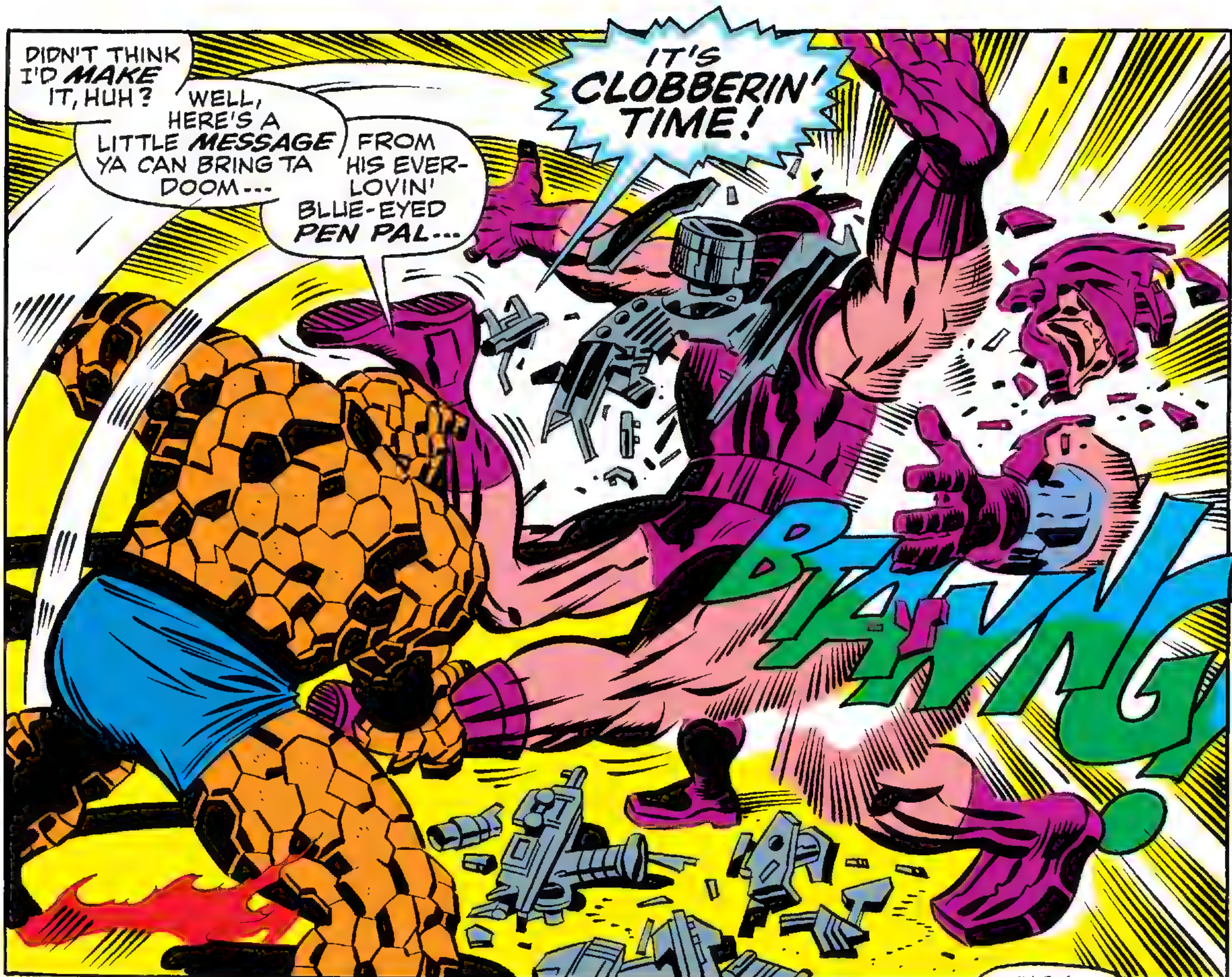
THERE! NONE CAN
DEFY THE WONDROUS
**WEAPONRY OF THE
MASTER!**

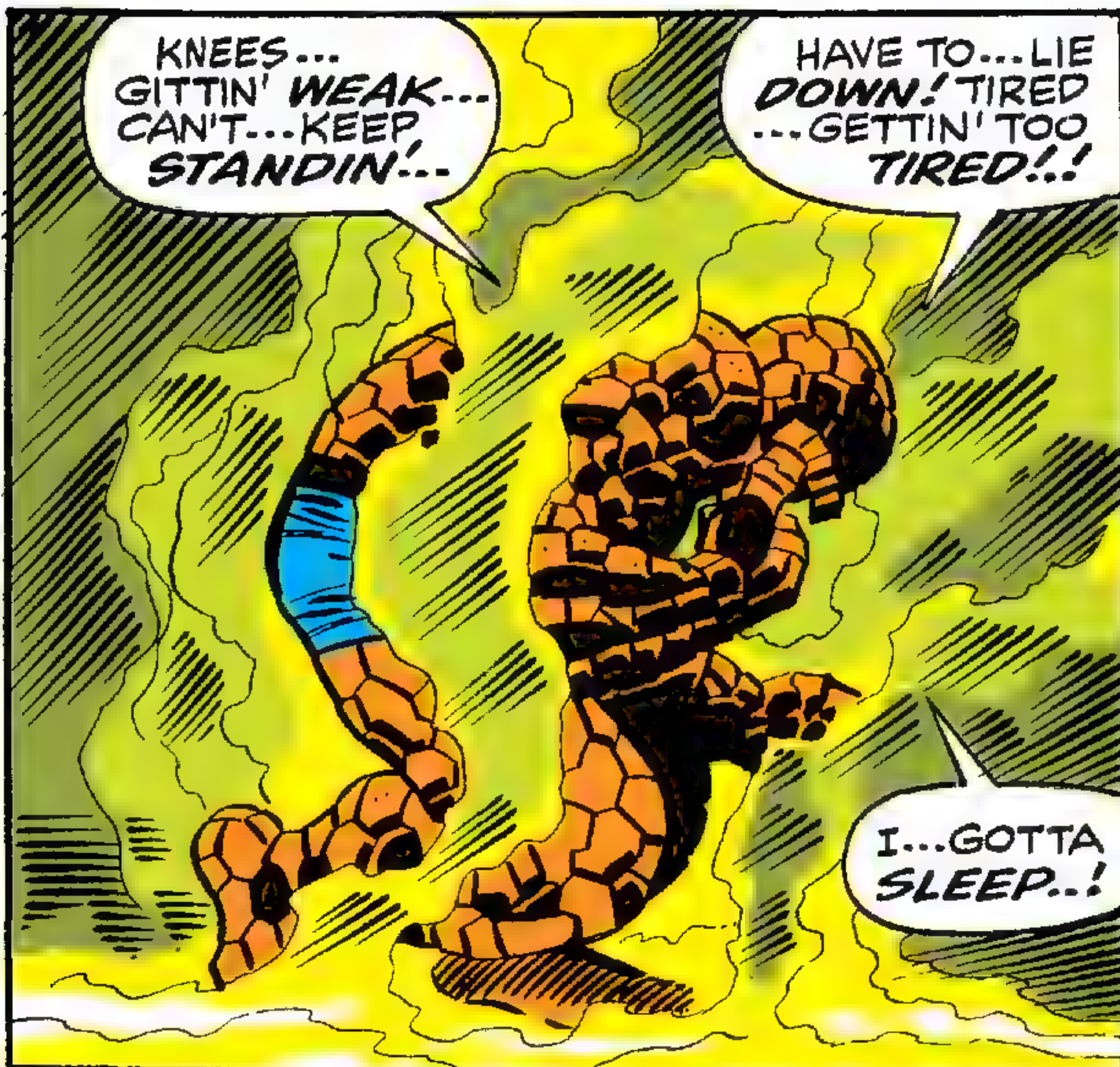
DON'T
BET ON
IT, BUTTER-
CLIP!



THAT BLASTED **HEAT**
IS MELTIN' MY **TOP-
COAT** CLEAN OFF...

BUT I
OUGHTTA **REACH**
'IM BEFORE MY
YUMMY **ORANGE
SKIN** GETS
ROASTED!

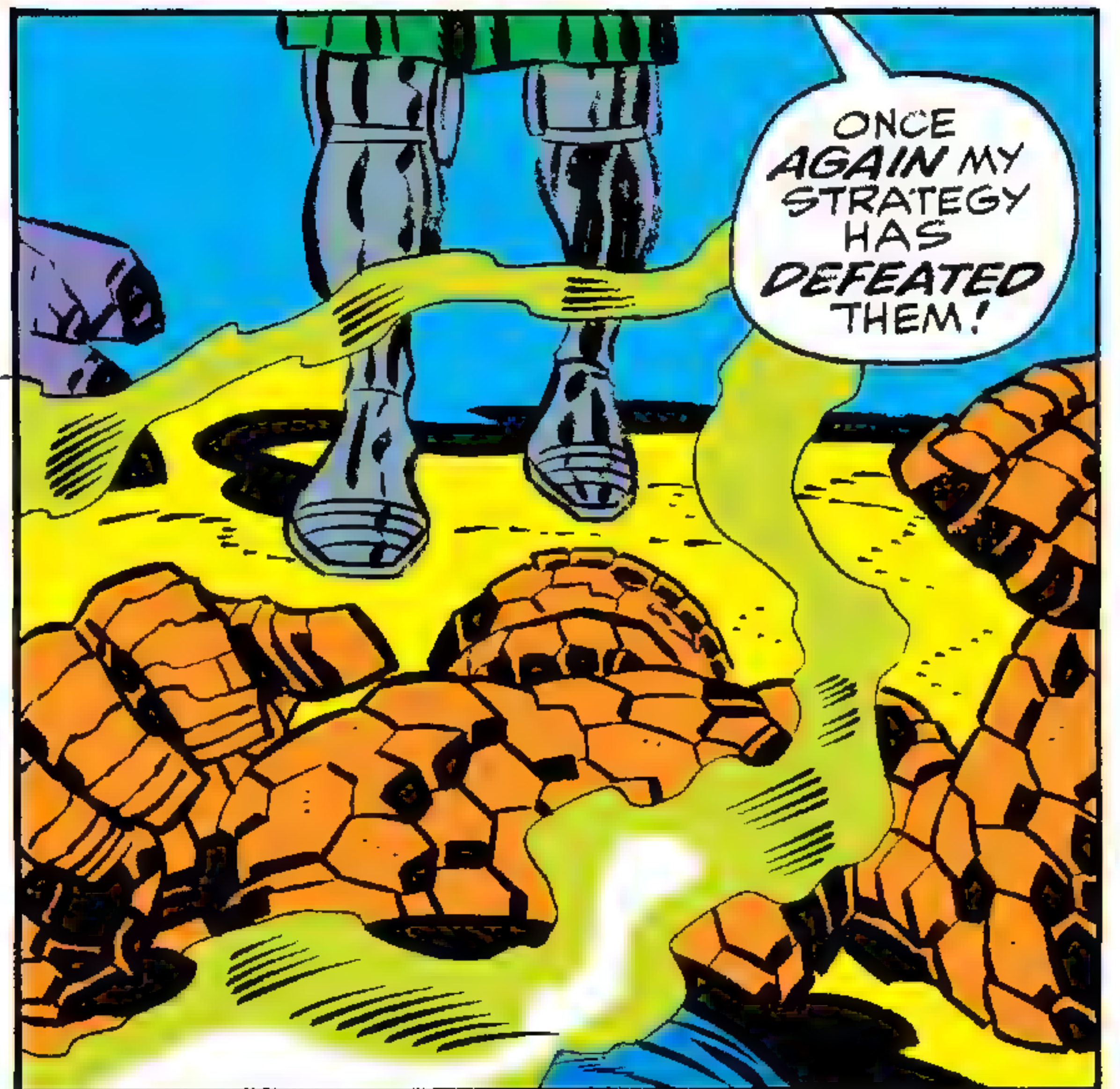




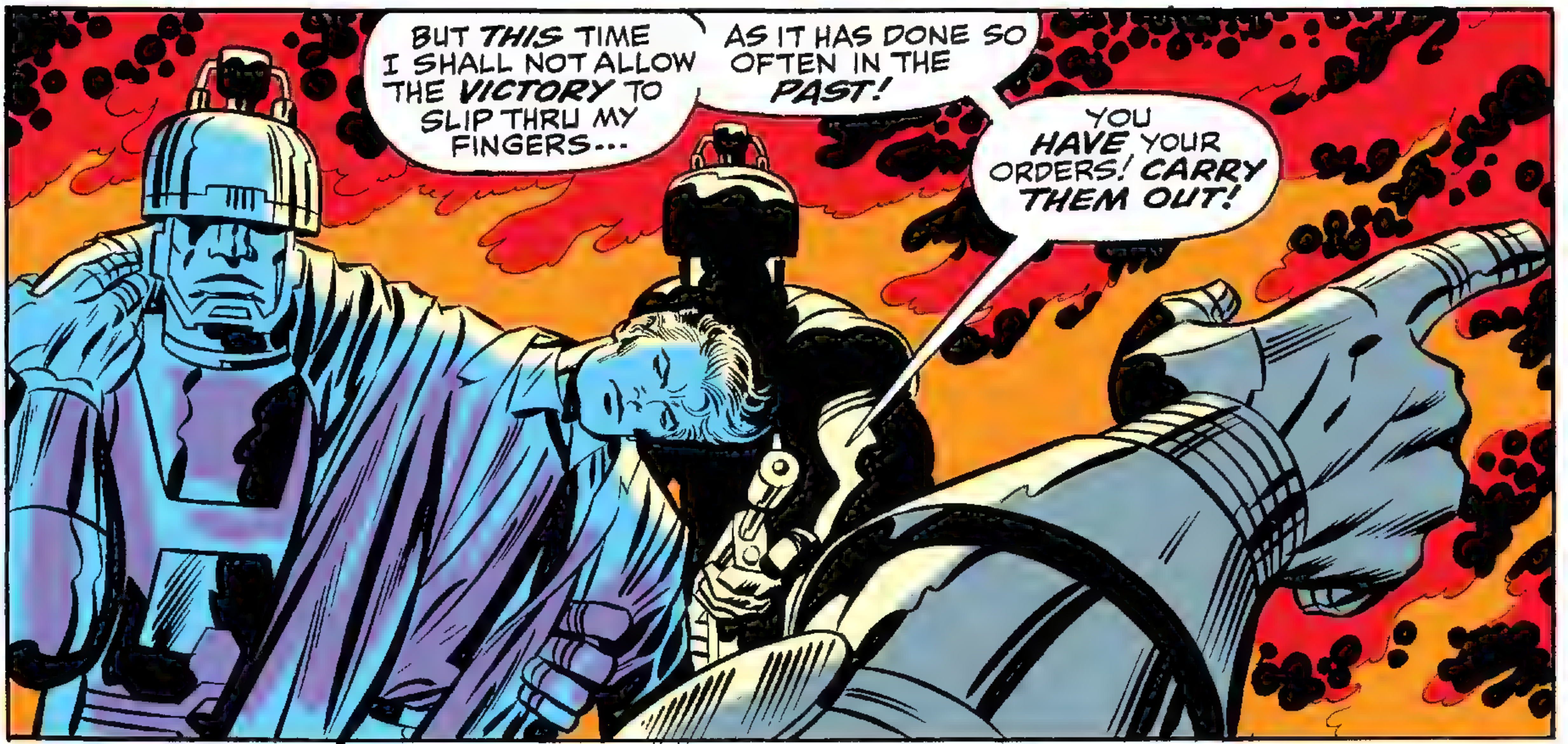
KNEES...
GITTIN' WEAK...
CAN'T...KEEP
STANDIN'...

HAVE TO...LIE
DOWN! TIRED
...GETTIN' TOO
TIRED!!

I...GOTTA
SLEEP..!



ONCE
AGAIN MY
STRATEGY
HAS
DEFEATED
THEM!



BUT *THIS* TIME
I SHALL NOT ALLOW
THE *VICTORY* TO
SLIP THRU MY
FINGERS...

AS IT HAS DONE SO
OFTEN IN THE
PAST!

YOU
HAVE YOUR
ORDERS! *CARRY*
THEM OUT!



DO NOT BE *CONCERNED*
ABOUT THE TORCH'S
FLAME!

I SHALL
ENSURE THAT IT
NEVER BURNS
AGAIN!

AND, AS FAR
AS THE OUTSIDE
WORLD
SHALL KNOW...



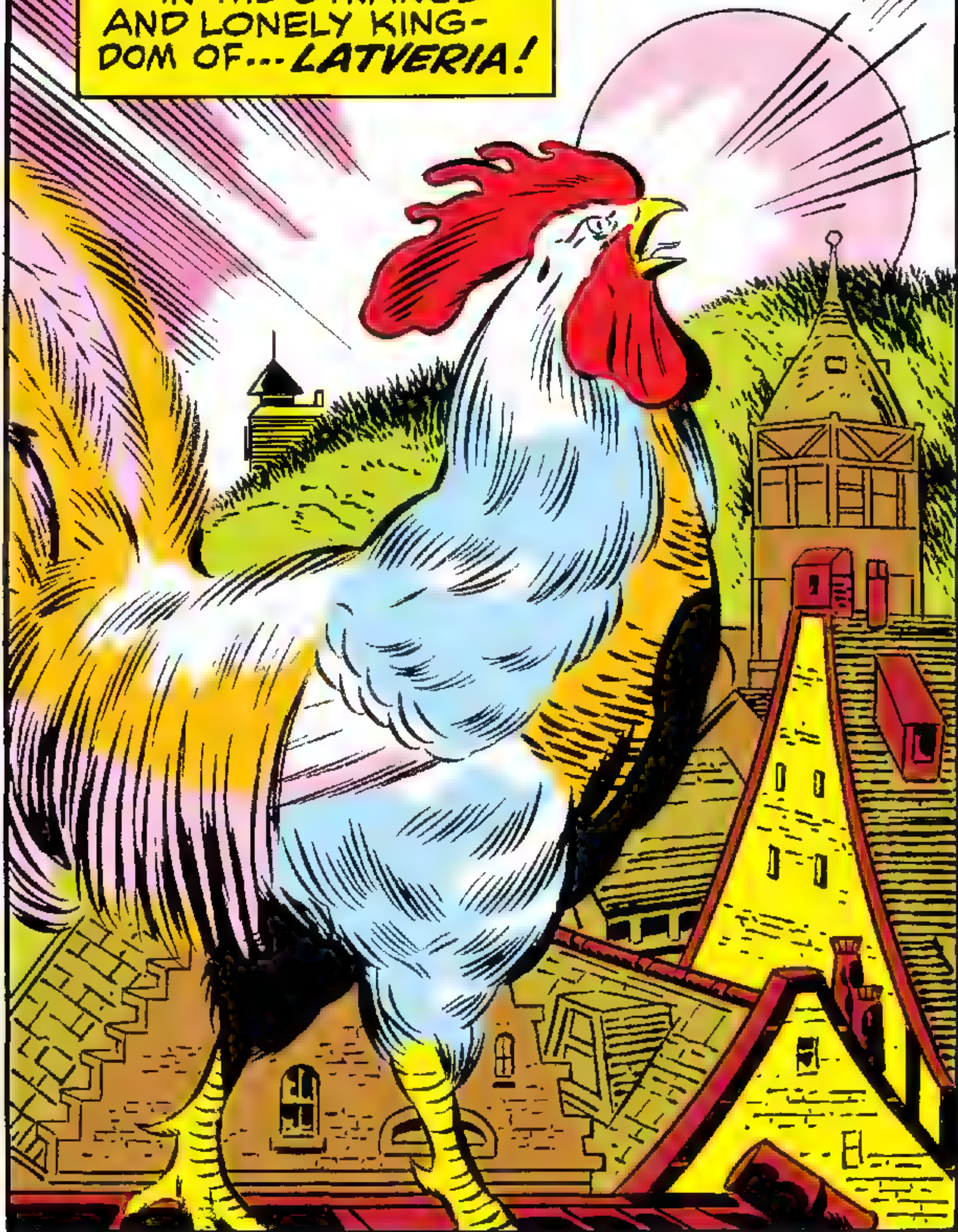
OUR CAPTIVES HAVE
SIMPLY *VANISHED*...
FROM THE FACE OF
THE EARTH...

...SINCE THEY
WILL BE MY
PRISONERS...
FOREVER!

NOW
TAKE
THEM
AWAY!

THE NEXT MORNING, A SLOWLY-RISING *SUN* ILLUMES THE PEACEFUL, RUSTIC LANDSCAPE OF WHAT SEEMS TO BE A SLEEPY LITTLE VALLEY...

...IN THE STRANGE AND LONELY KINGDOM OF... *LATVERIA!*

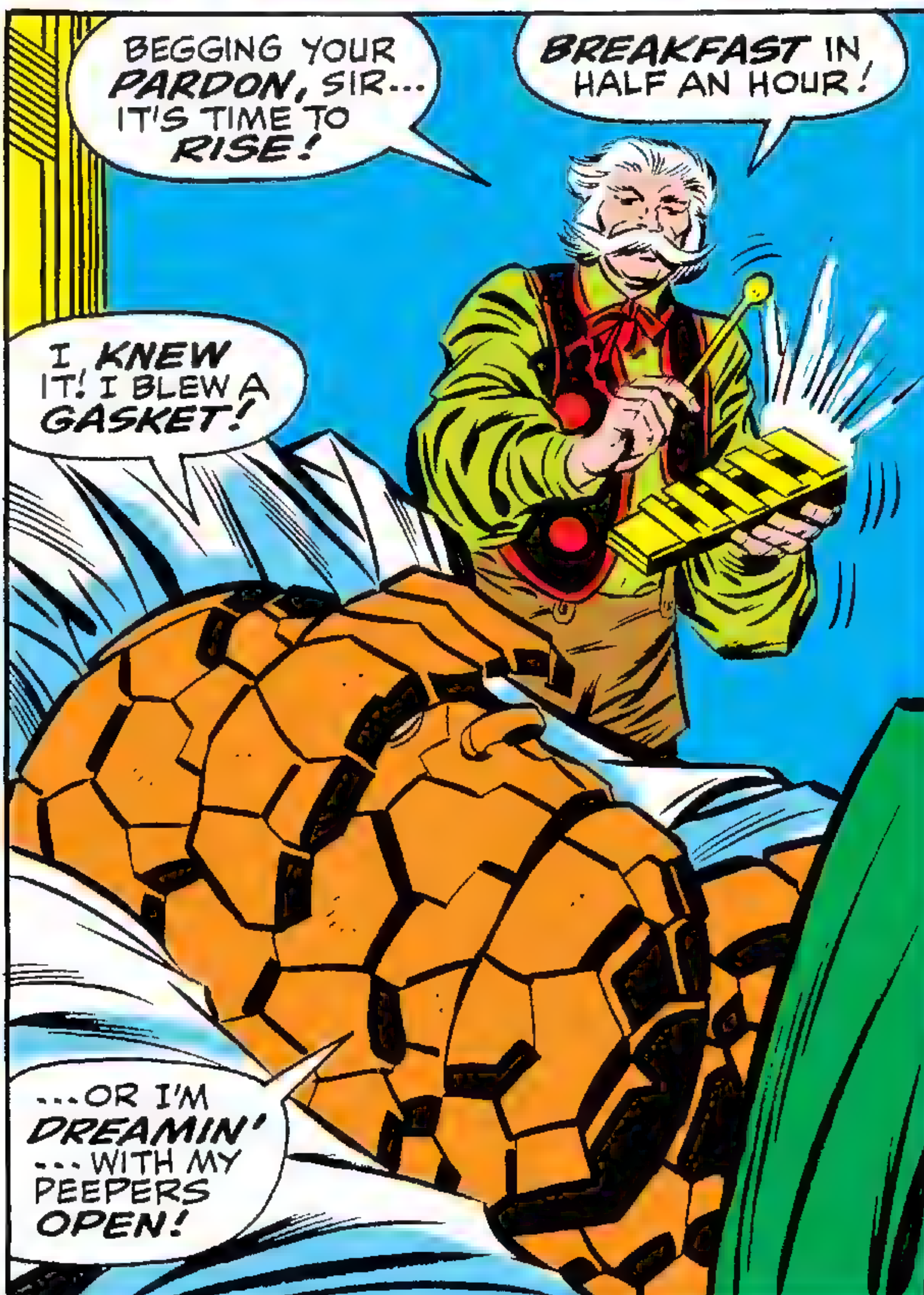


I COULDA **SWORE** I HEARD A **ROOSTER** CROWIN'!

HEY! WHERE IN **BLAZES** AM I?

WHAT AM I DOIN' BETWEEN **SATIN** SHEETS...

LIKE A **HALF-TON** SLEEPIN' **BEAUTY?**



BEGGING YOUR **PARDON**, SIR... IT'S TIME TO **RISE!**

BREAKFAST IN HALF AN HOUR!

I **KNEW** IT! I BLEW A **GASKET!**

...OR I'M **DREAMIN'** ...WITH MY **PEEPERS** OPEN!



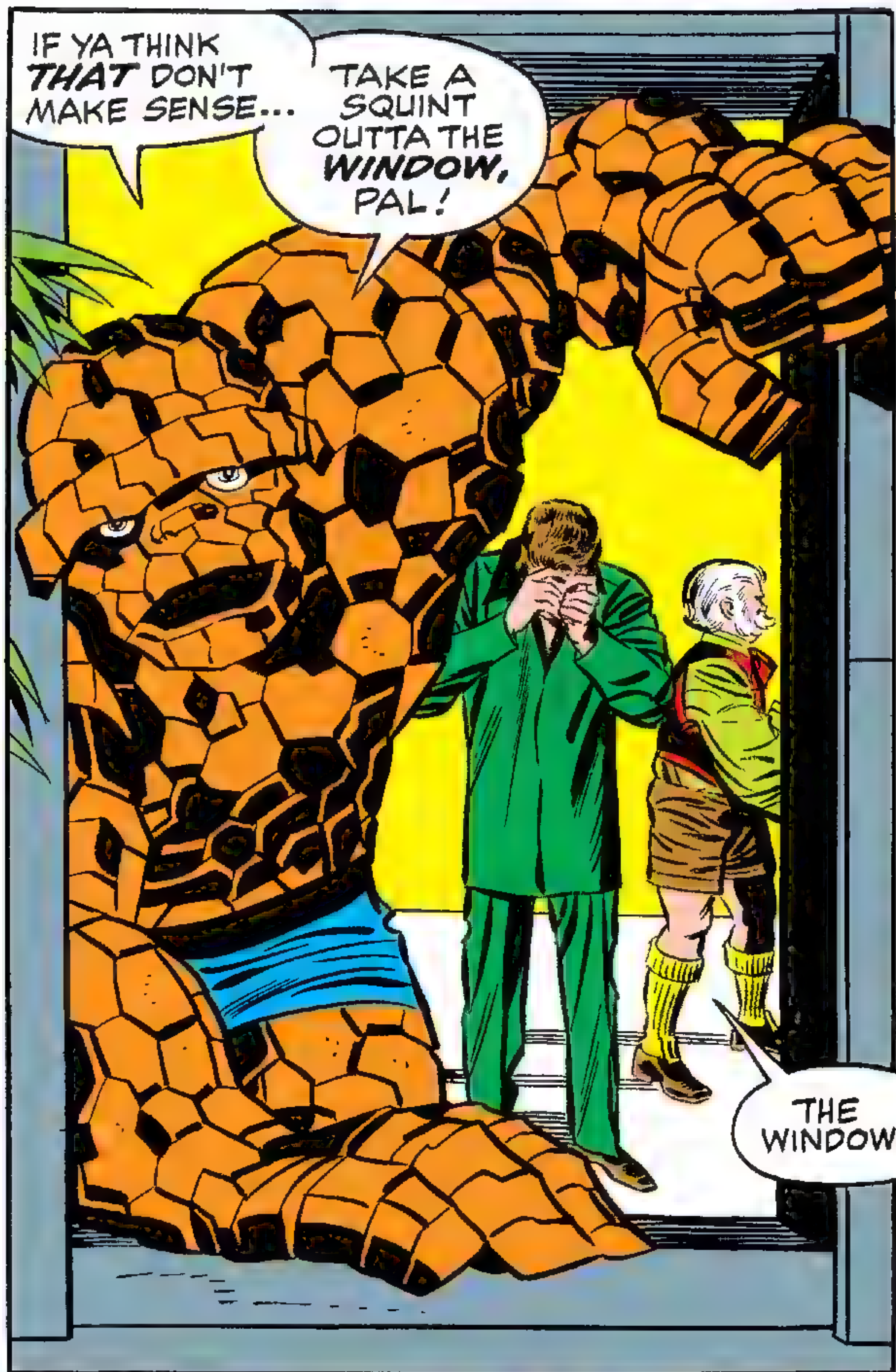
NO! I **AIN'T** DREAMIN'!

THERE'S **STRETCHO...** GITTIN' HISSELF WOKE UP **ALSO!**

I TRUST YOU PREFER YOUR **TOAST MEDIUM BROWN**, SIR?

A **LUXURIOUS BED!**--AND **ROOM SERVICE!**

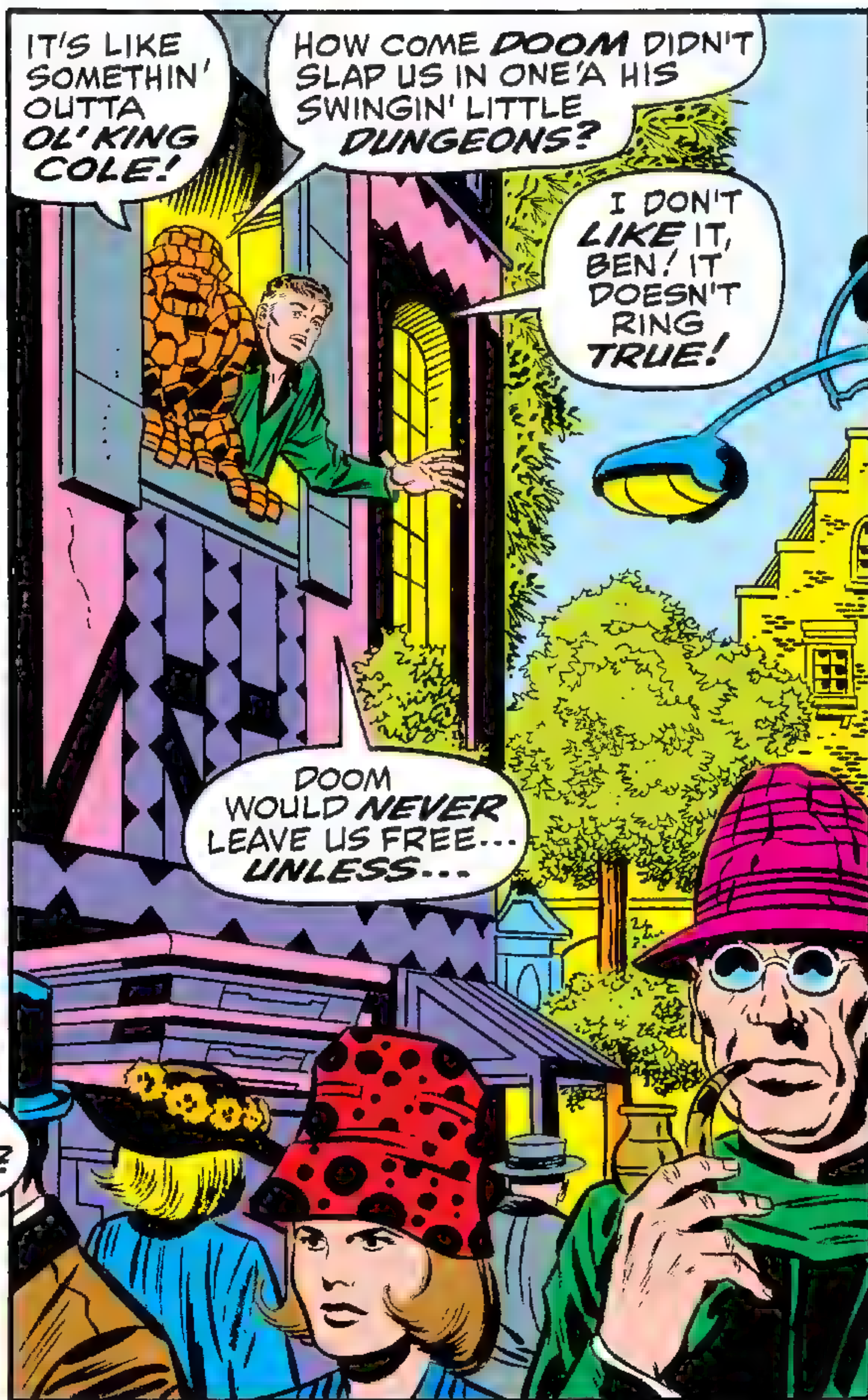
IT DOESN'T ---MAKE **SENSE!**



IF YA THINK **THAT** DON'T MAKE SENSE...

TAKE A SQUINT OUTTA THE WINDOW, PAL!

THE WINDOW..?



IT'S LIKE SOMETHIN' OUTTA **OL' KING COLE!**

HOW COME **DOOM** DIDN'T SLAP US IN ONE'A HIS SWINGIN' LITTLE **DUNGEONS?**

I DON'T LIKE IT, BEN! IT DOESN'T RING TRUE!

DOOM WOULD **NEVER** LEAVE US FREE... **UNLESS...**



REED! BEN! WHAT'S GOIN' ON??

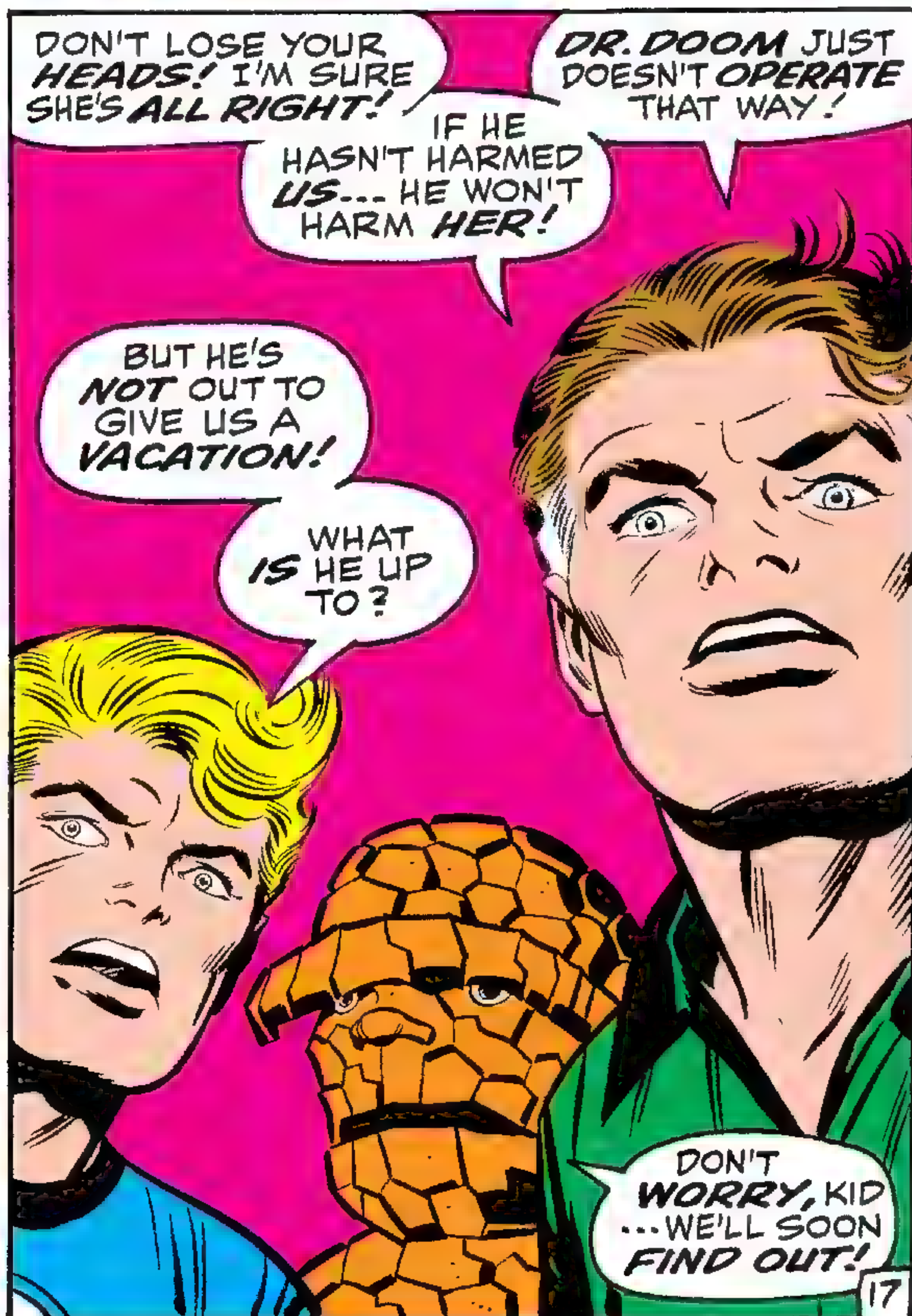
THEY'RE **TREATING** ME LIKE AN' **HONORED GUEST!**

BUT... I CAN'T FIND **CRYSTAL!**

SO **THAT'S** IT!

HE MADE HER A **HOSTAGE!**

JUST WAIT'LL I GIT MY **PAWS** ON 'IM....!



DON'T LOSE YOUR **HEADS!** I'M SURE SHE'S ALL RIGHT!

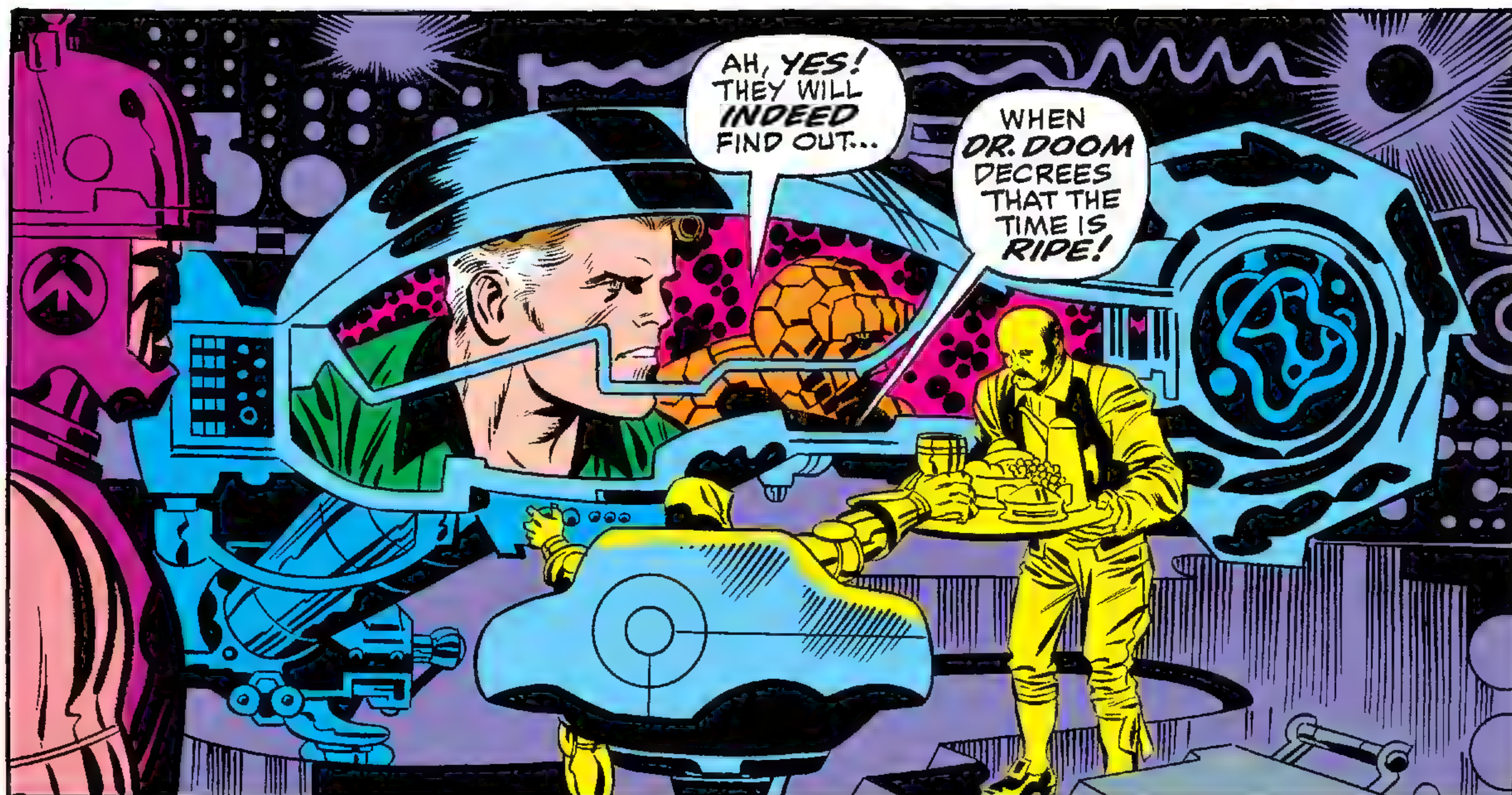
DR. DOOM JUST DOESN'T OPERATE THAT WAY!

IF HE HASN'T HARMED **US...** HE WON'T HARM **HER!**

BUT HE'S **NOT** OUT TO GIVE US A **VACATION!**

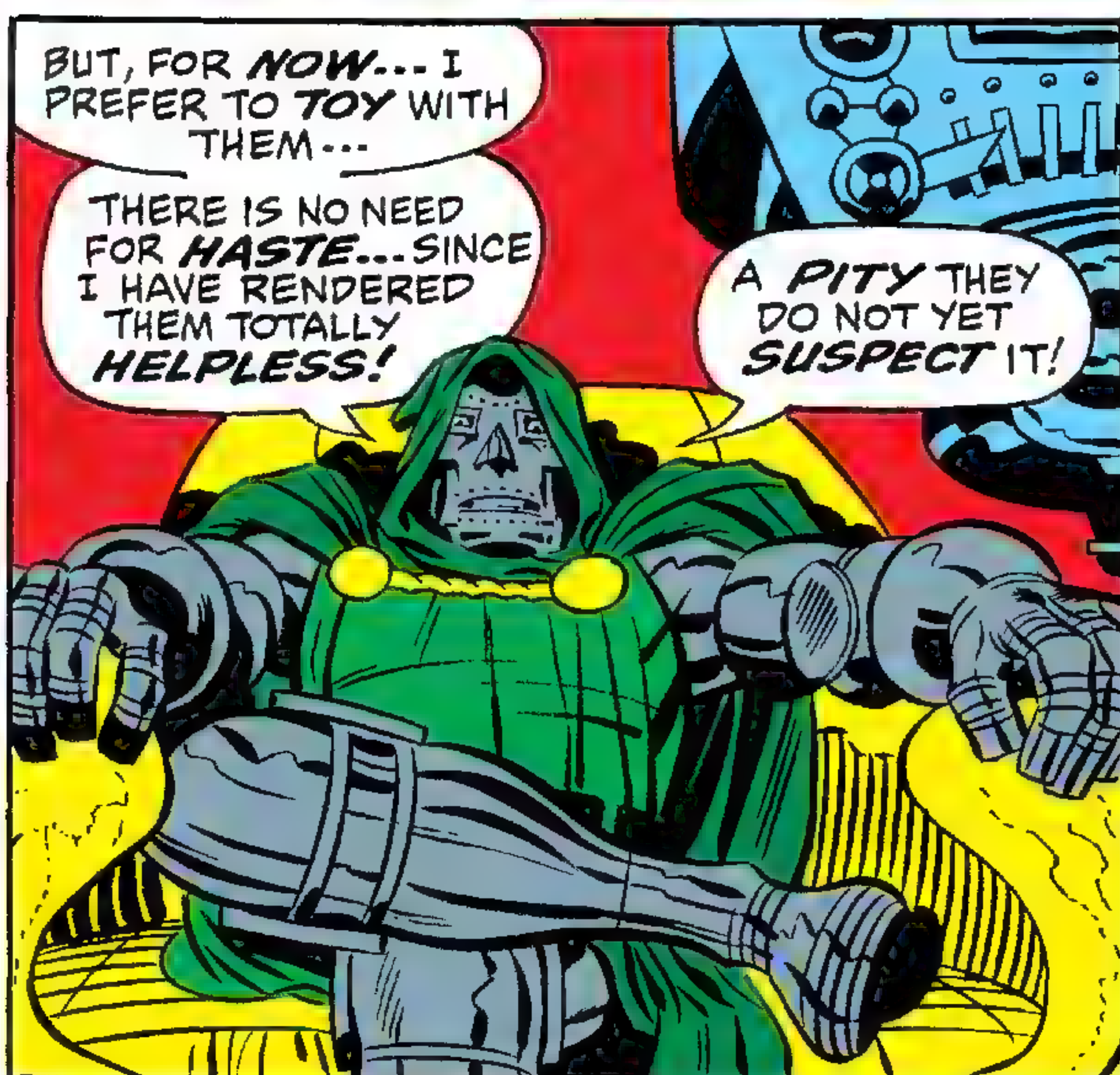
WHAT **IS** HE UP TO?

DON'T **WORRY, KID** ...WE'LL SOON **FIND OUT!**



AH, YES!
THEY WILL
INDEED
FIND OUT...

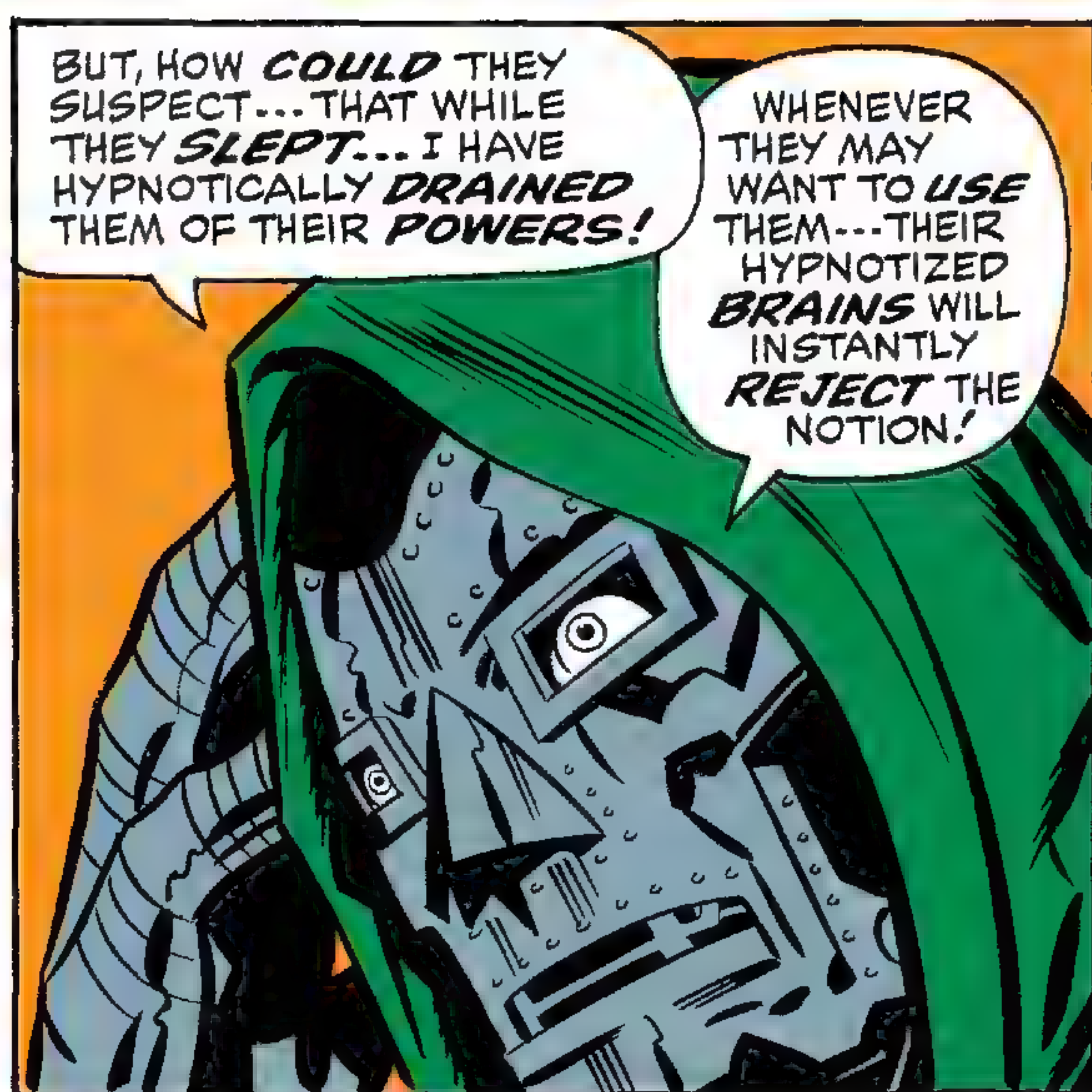
WHEN
DR. DOOM
DECREEES
THAT THE
TIME IS
RIPE!



BUT, FOR *NOW*... I
PREFER TO *TOY* WITH
THEM...

THERE IS NO NEED
FOR *HASTE*... SINCE
I HAVE RENDERED
THEM TOTALLY
HELPLESS!

A *PITY* THEY
DO NOT YET
SUSPECT IT!



BUT, HOW *COULD* THEY
SUSPECT... THAT WHILE
THEY *SLEPT*... I HAVE
HYPNOTICALLY **DRAINED**
THEM OF THEIR **POWERS!**

WHENEVER
THEY MAY
WANT TO *USE*
THEM... THEIR
HYPNOTIZED
BRAINS WILL
INSTANTLY
REJECT THE
NOTION!

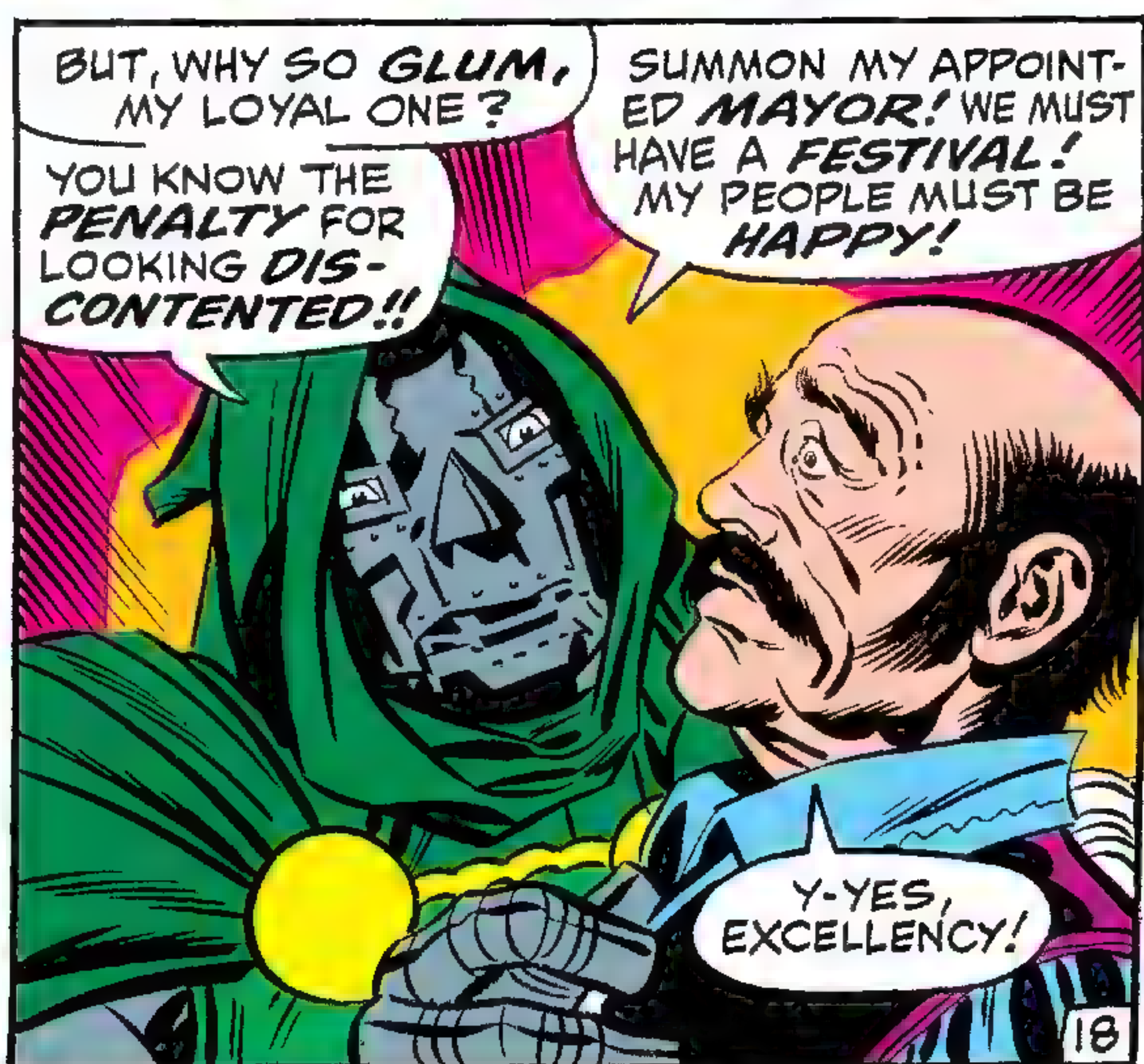


AND, IF THE
HYPNOSIS
SHOULD LATER
WEAR OFF...

IT WILL BE *CHILD'S*
PLAY TO SUBJECT
THEM TO IT *AGAIN*...
AND *AGAIN*...

AS LONG AS THEY
LIVE!

THIS
THEN IS MY
ULTIMATE
REVENGE!

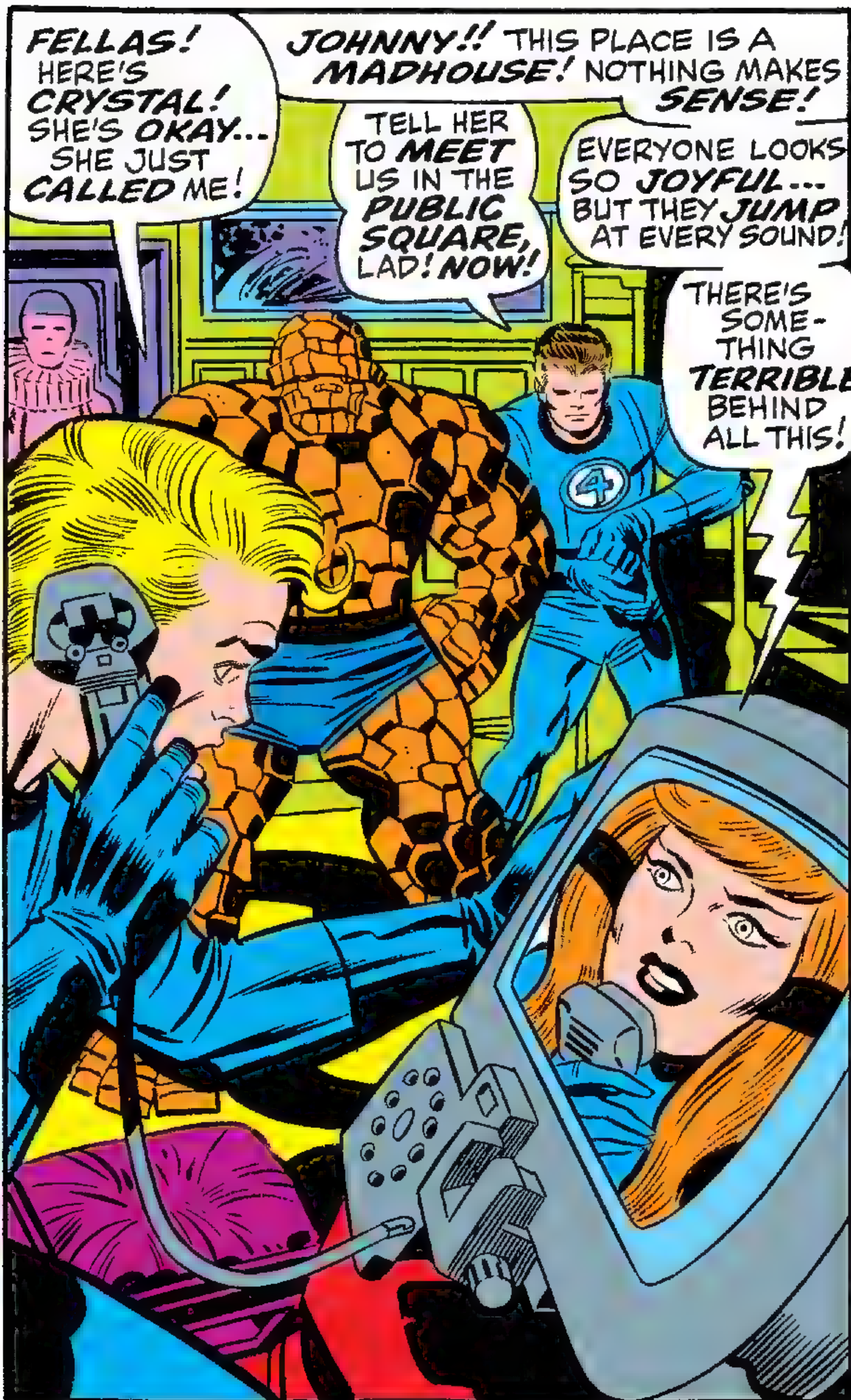


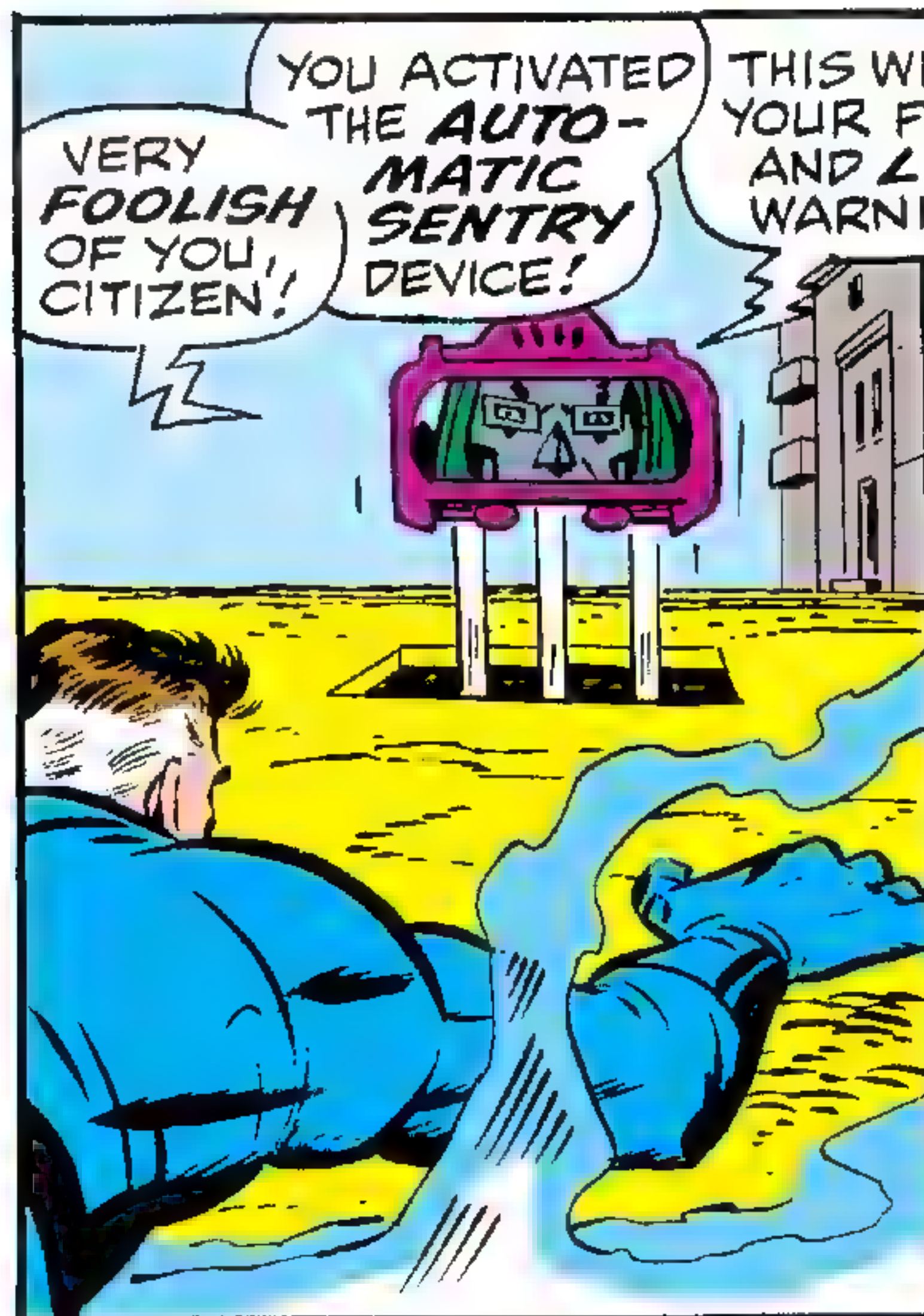
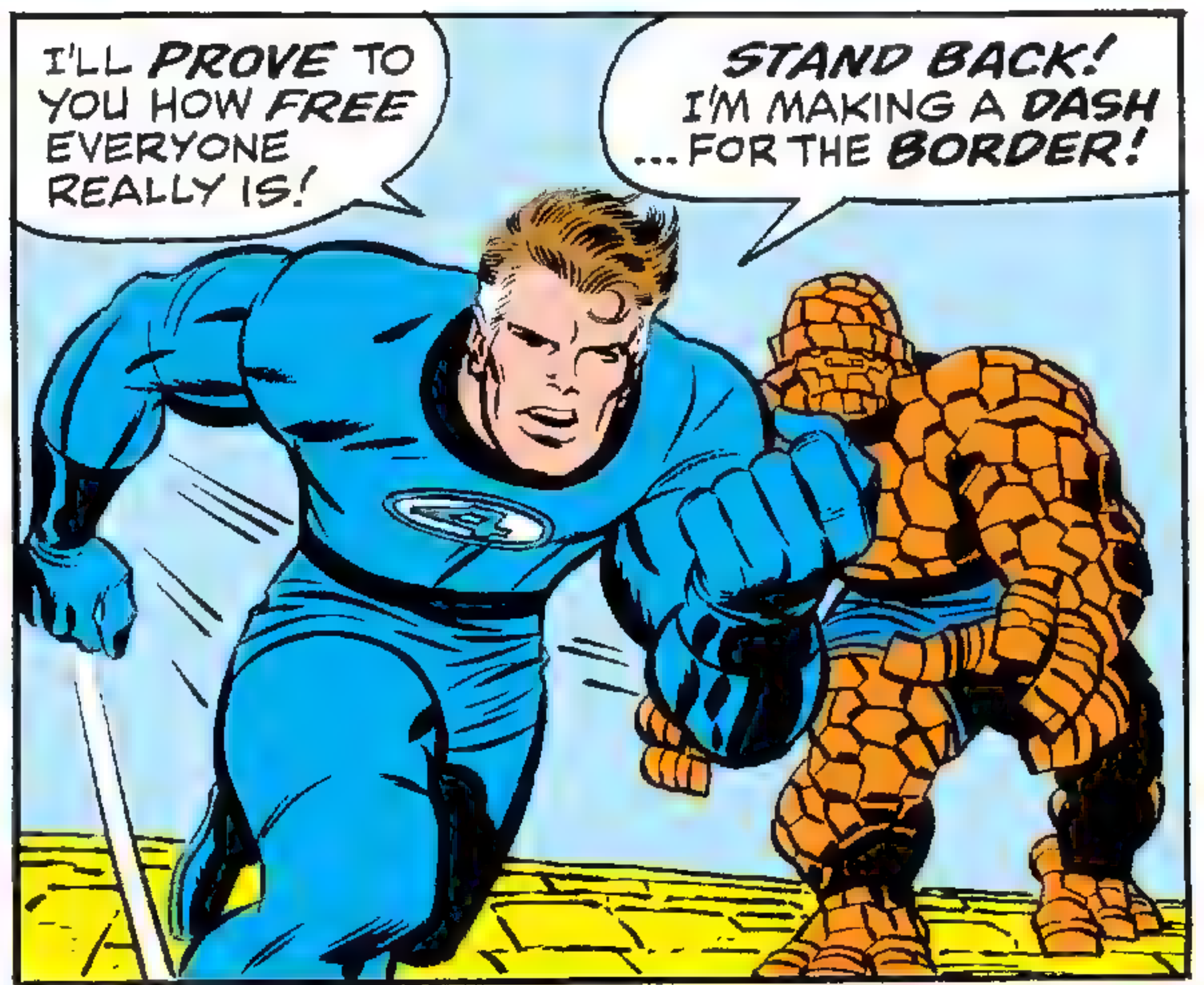
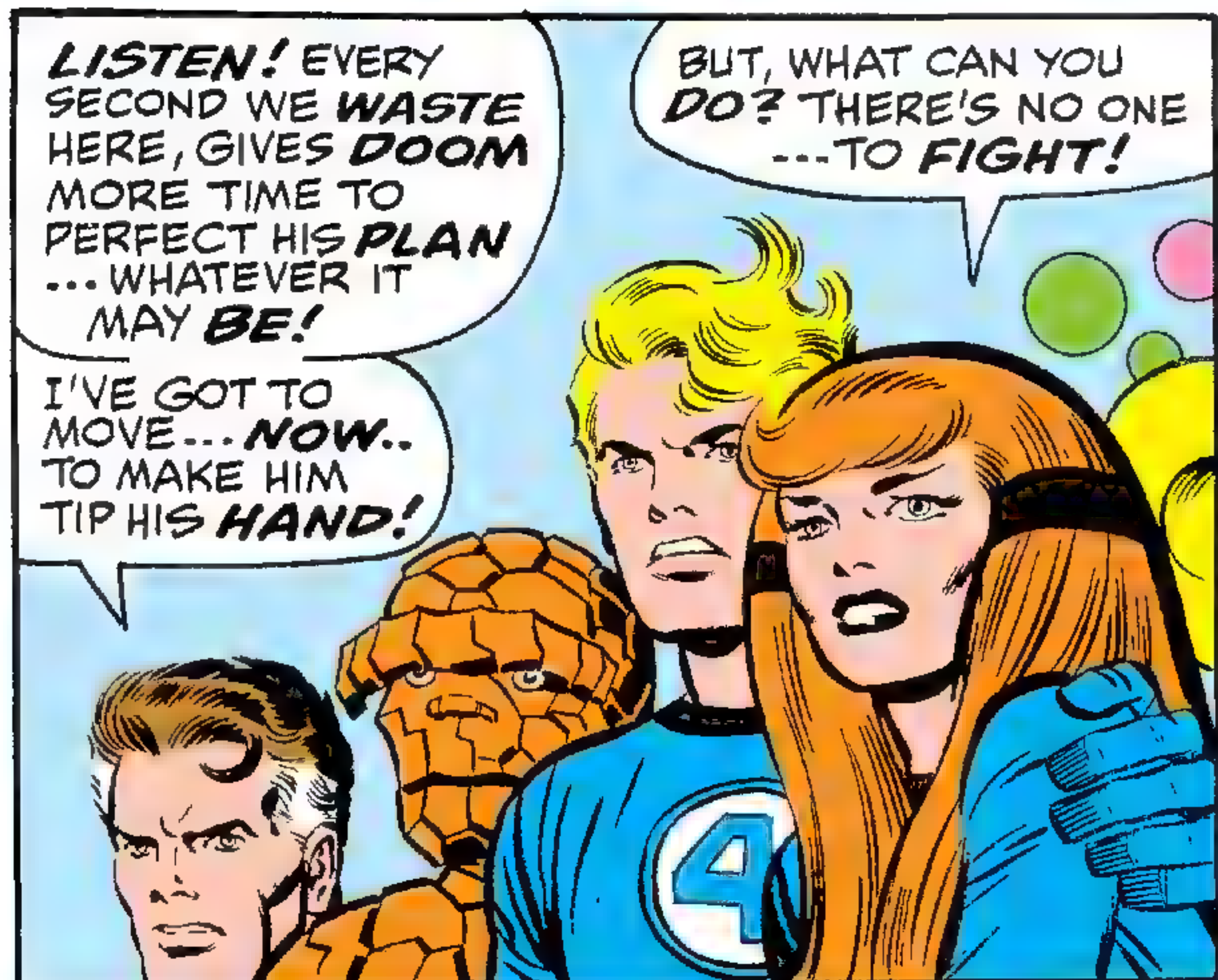
BUT, WHY SO *GLUM*,
MY LOYAL ONE?

YOU KNOW THE
PENALTY FOR
LOOKING **DIS-**
CONTENTED!!

SUMMON MY APPOINT-
ED *MAYOR*! WE MUST
HAVE A **FESTIVAL!**
MY PEOPLE MUST BE
HAPPY!

Y-YES,
EXCELLENCY!

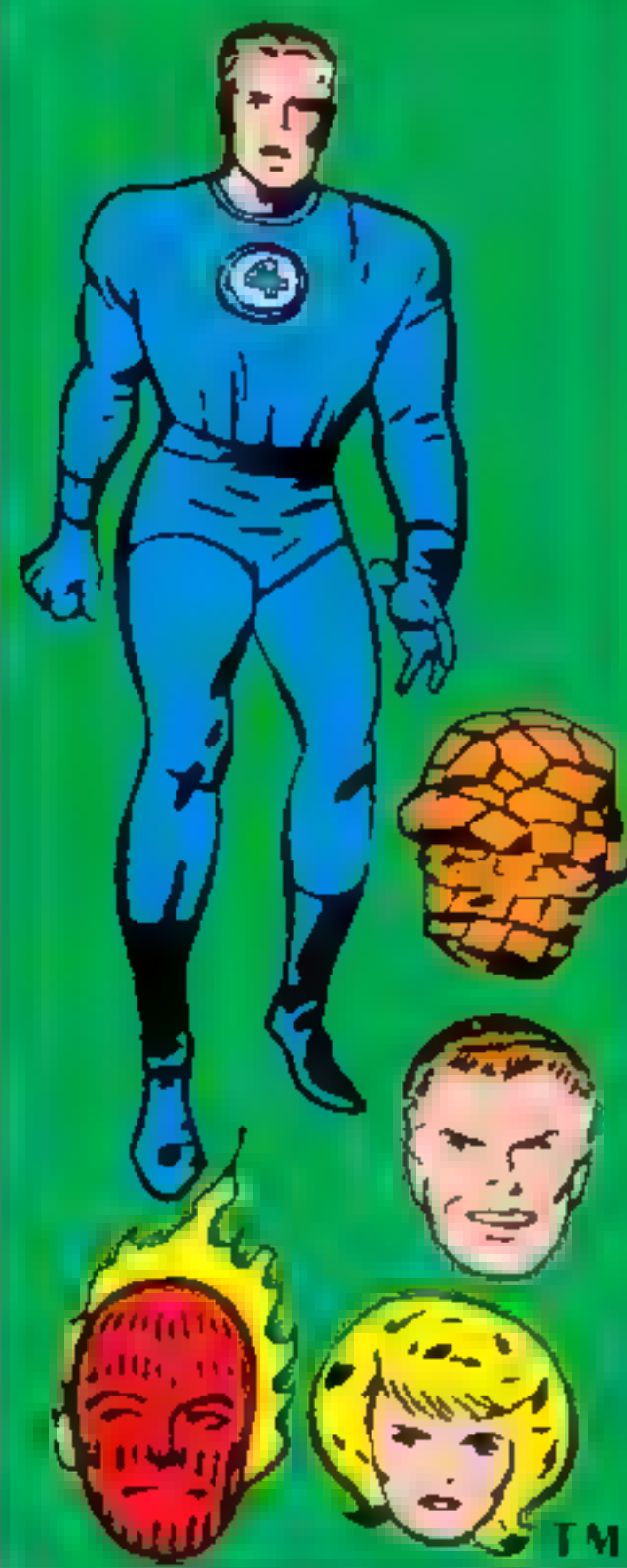




FANTASTIC
FOUR

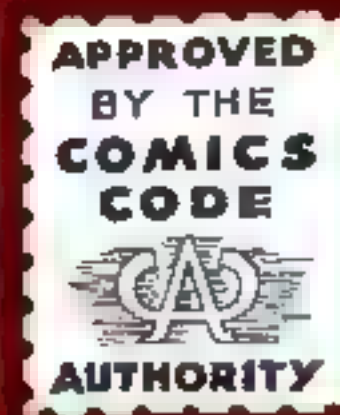
12¢
IND.

85
APR



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!



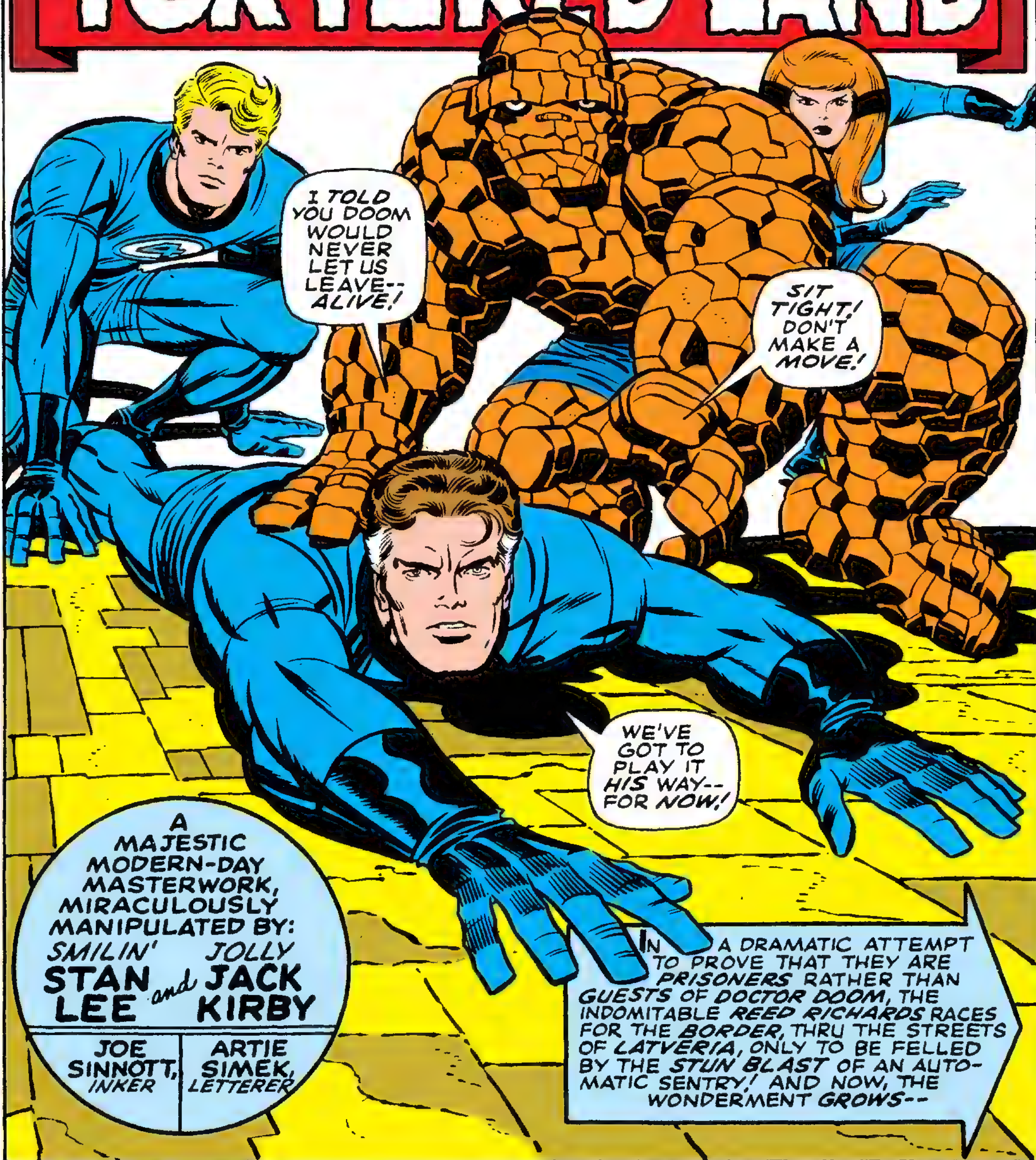
Fantastic FOUR



...WITHIN THIS TORTURED LAND!

EVEN THE FABULOUS, MULTI-POWERED **F.F.** FIND THEMSELVES HELPLESS--

WITHIN THIS TORTURED LAND



I TOLD
YOU DOOM
WOULD
NEVER
LET US
LEAVE--
ALIVE!

SIT
TIGHT!
DON'T
MAKE A
MOVE!

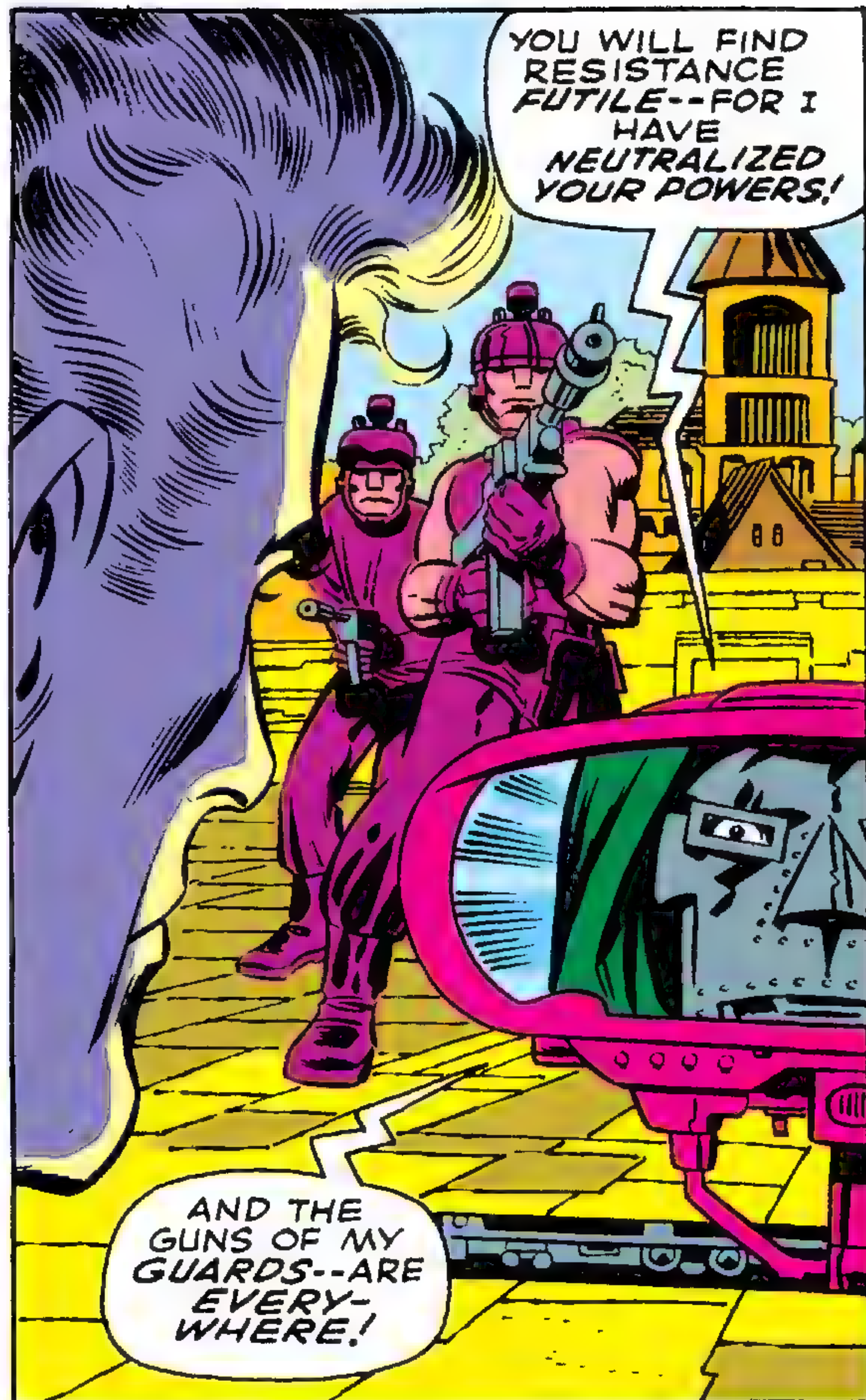
WE'VE
GOT TO
PLAY IT
HIS WAY--
FOR NOW!

A
MAJESTIC
MODERN-DAY
MASTERWORK,
MIRACULOUSLY
MANIPULATED BY:
SMILIN' JOLLY
STAN and JACK
LEE and KIRBY

JOE
SINNOTT,
INKER

ARTIE
SIMEK,
LETTERER

IN A DRAMATIC ATTEMPT
TO PROVE THAT THEY ARE
PRISONERS RATHER THAN
GUESTS OF DOCTOR DOOM, THE
INDOMITABLE REED RICHARDS RACES
FOR THE BORDER, THRU THE STREETS
OF LATVERIA, ONLY TO BE FELLED
BY THE STUN BLAST OF AN AUTO-
MATIC SENTRY! AND NOW, THE
WONDERMENT GROWS--







WHEN DOOM SAID HE TOOK OUR POWERS AWAY--I THOUGHT HE WUZ TRYIN' TO CON US!

LOOKS LIKE THE CRUMBBUM MEANT IT!

BUT HOW IN THE NAME'A AUNT PETUNIA DID HE DO IT??

REMEMBER, BEN--DR. DOOM HAS THE MOST BRILLIANTLY EVIL MIND THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN!

DON'T WORRY, CRYSTAL! WE'LL GET OUT OF THIS SOMEHOW!

BUT MY HEART BREAKS FOR THE OTHERS, JOHNNY--

SEE THE HAUNTED FACES ALL ABOUT US--TRYING NOT TO SHOW THEIR FEAR!

WE MUSTN'T LET OUR OWN PLIGHT OVERSHADOW THE REASON WHY WE'RE HERE!

YOU MEAN--THE SECRET ARMY OF DR. DOOM--THAT COLONEL FURY SENT US HERE TO FIND--AND TO SMASH!

MAN! AT THE TIME, I DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT A TALL ORDER THAT WAS!

TALL OR NOT--IT MUST BE DONE!

CITIZENS! YOUR LUNCH IS READY!

ALL FOOD IS PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE BY OUR GENEROUS SOVEREIGN!

NATURALLY! EVEN IN ANCIENT TIMES, SLAVES WERE KEPT WELL-FED!

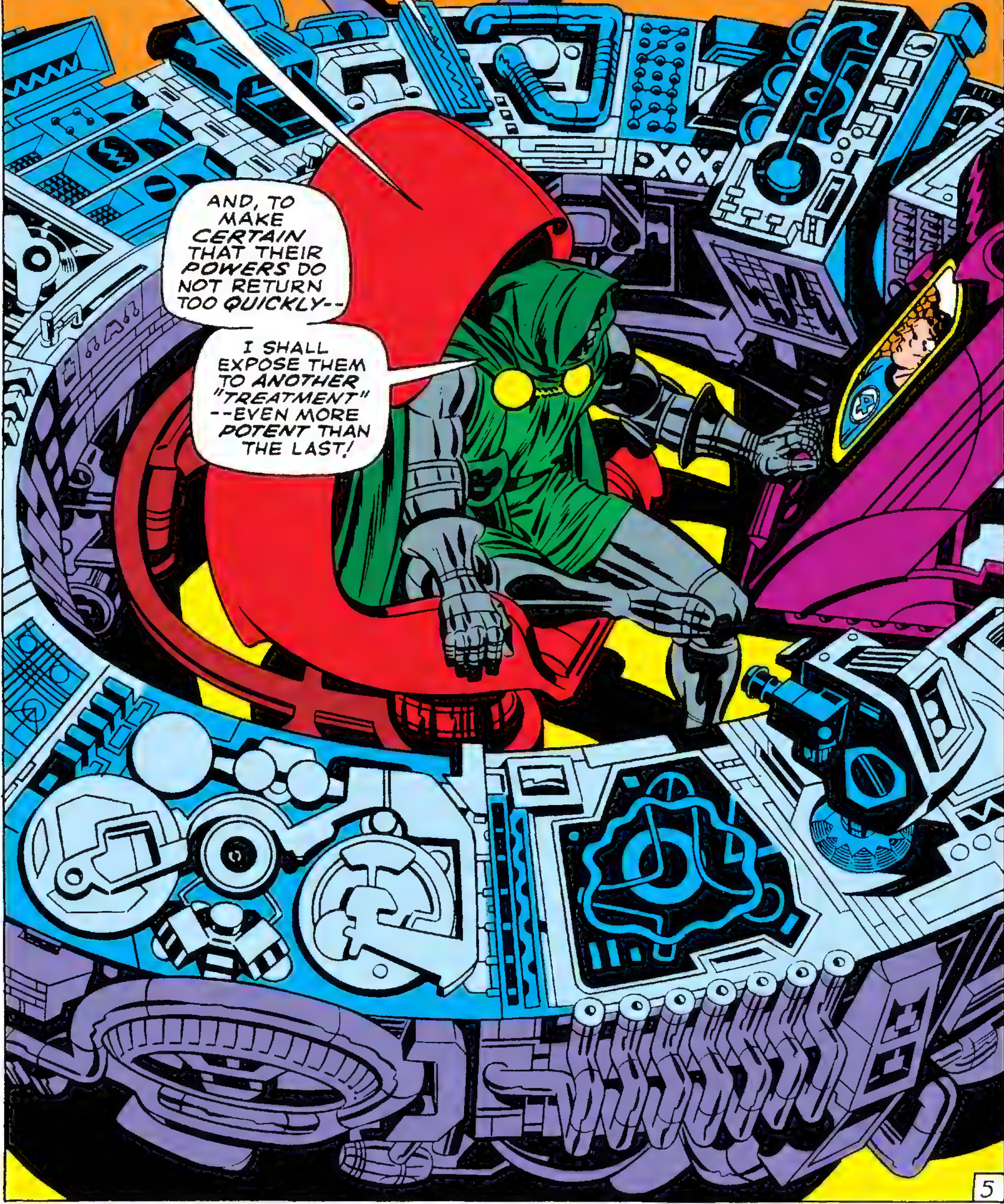
HE DARES COMPARE ME
TO A SLAVE-OWNER?!!

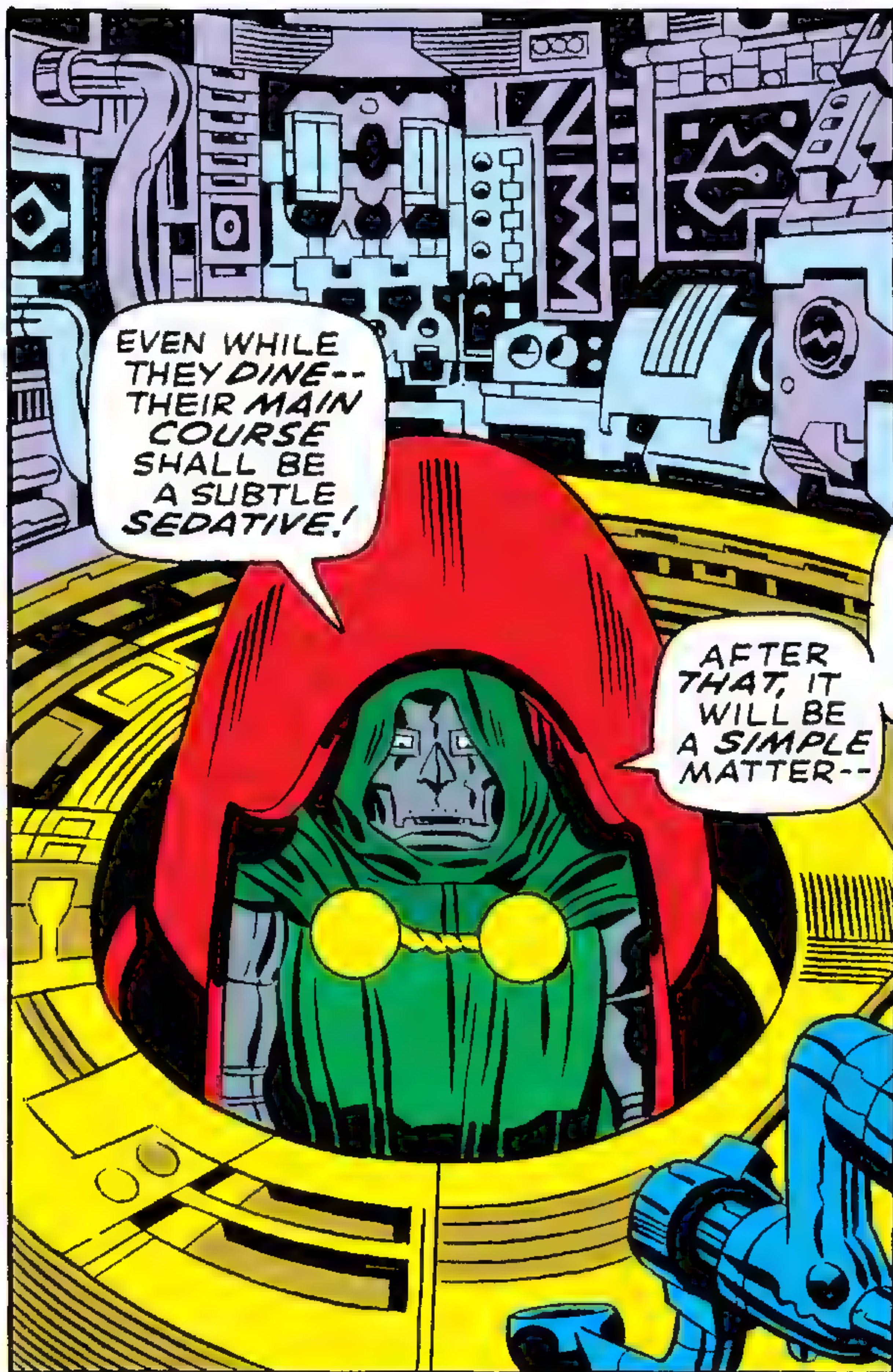
HISTORY TEACHES
US THAT SLAVES
HAVE BEEN KNOWN
TO ESCAPE--!

BUT HERE, IN MY
KINGDOM, NONE CAN
ESCAPE! I AM THE
MASTER--THEY ARE
THE SUBJECTS--
FOREVERMORE!

AND, TO MAKE
CERTAIN
THAT THEIR
POWERS DO
NOT RETURN
TOO QUICKLY--

I SHALL
EXPOSE THEM
TO ANOTHER
"TREATMENT"
--EVEN MORE
POTENT THAN
THE LAST!

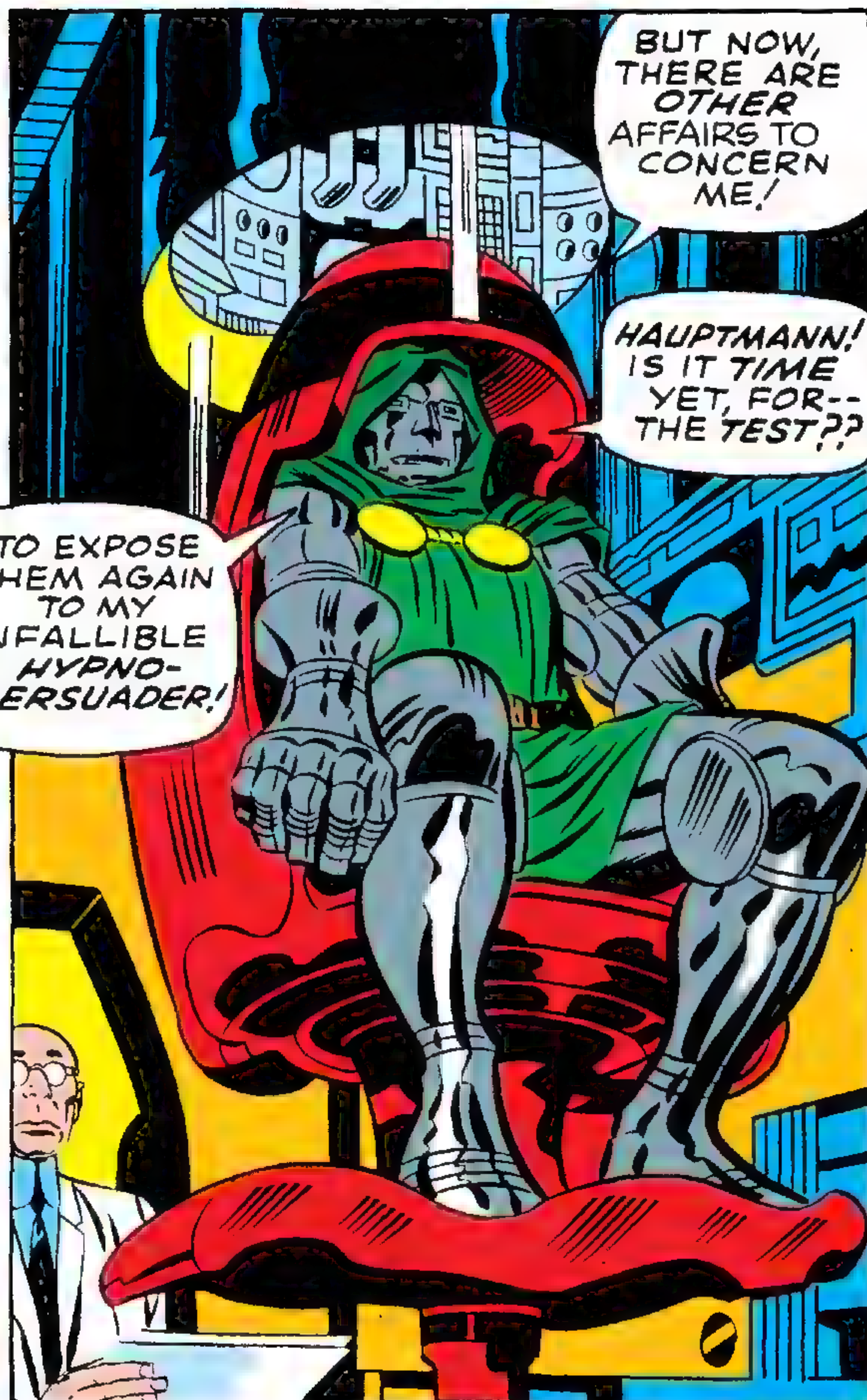




EVEN WHILE
THEY DINE--
THEIR MAIN
COURSE
SHALL BE
A SUBTLE
SEDATIVE!

AFTER
THAT, IT
WILL BE
A SIMPLE
MATTER--

TO EXPOSE
THEM AGAIN
TO MY
INFALLIBLE
HYPNO-
PERSUADER!



BUT NOW,
THERE ARE
OTHER
AFFAIRS TO
CONCERN
ME!

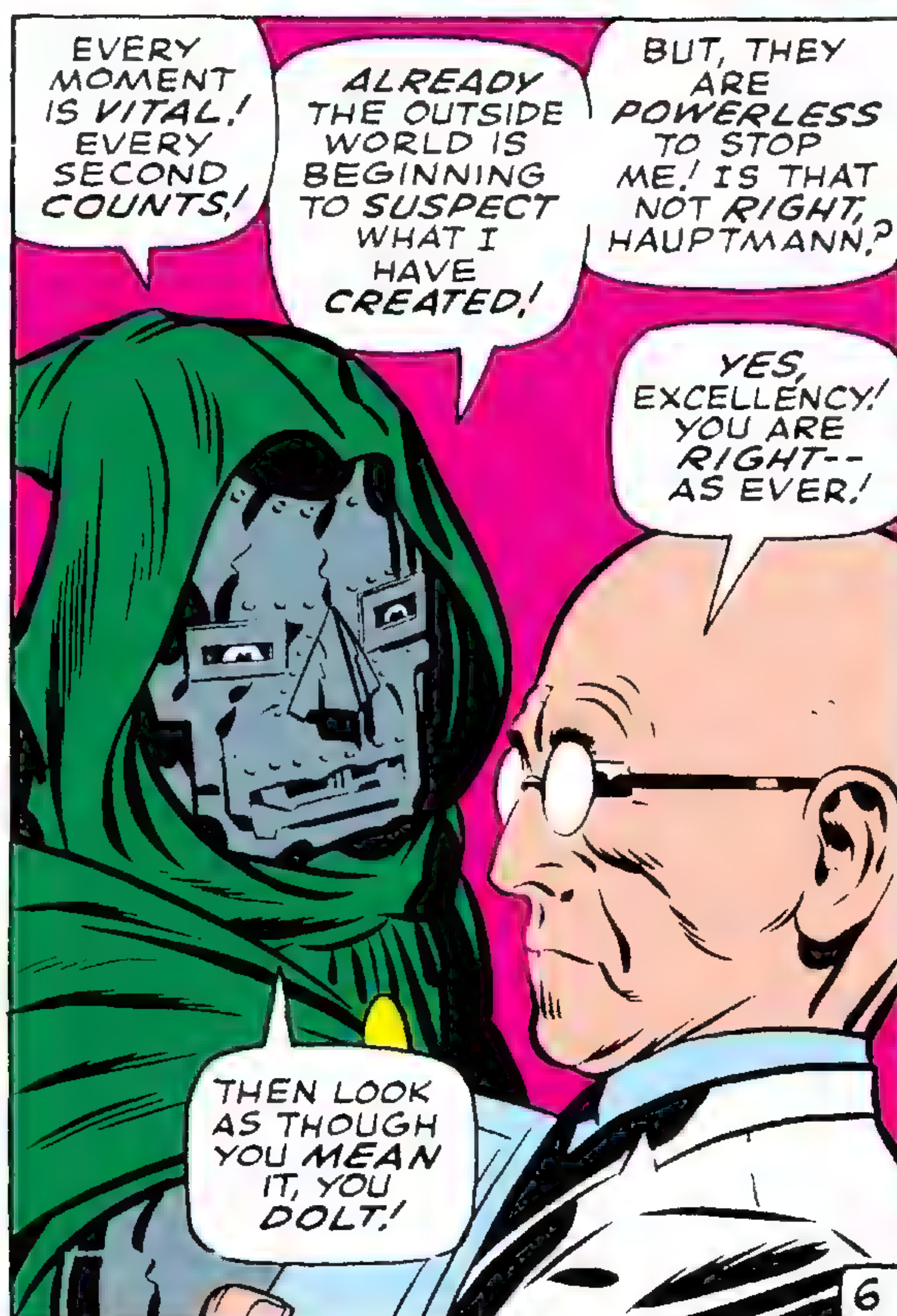
HAUPTMANN!
IS IT TIME
YET, FOR--
THE TEST??



ALL IS IN
READINESS,
EXCELLENCY--
JUST AS YOU
COMMANDED!

GOOD!
GOOD!

I MUST WITNESS
THE DEMON-
STRATION
WITHOUT DELAY!
COME!



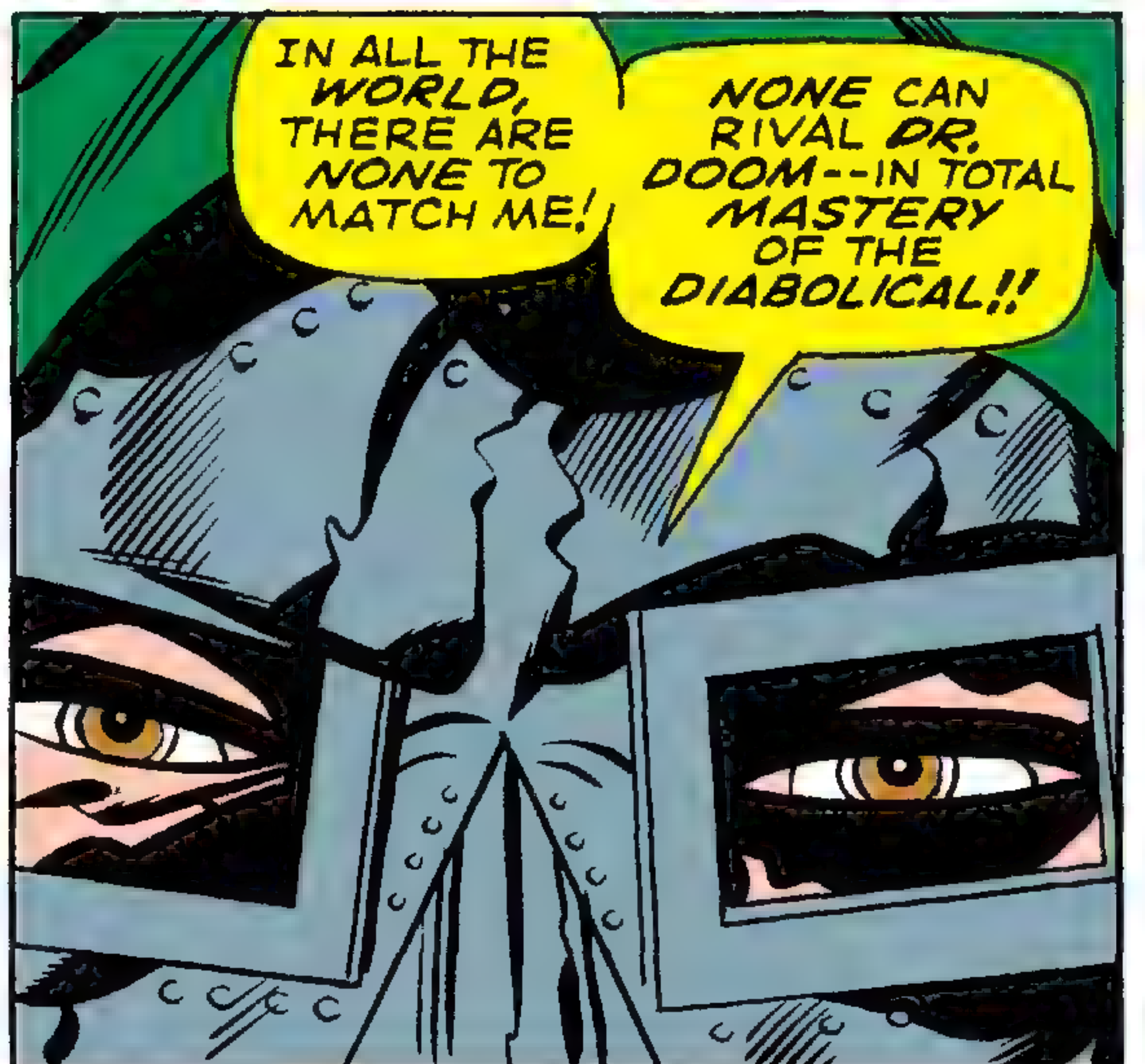
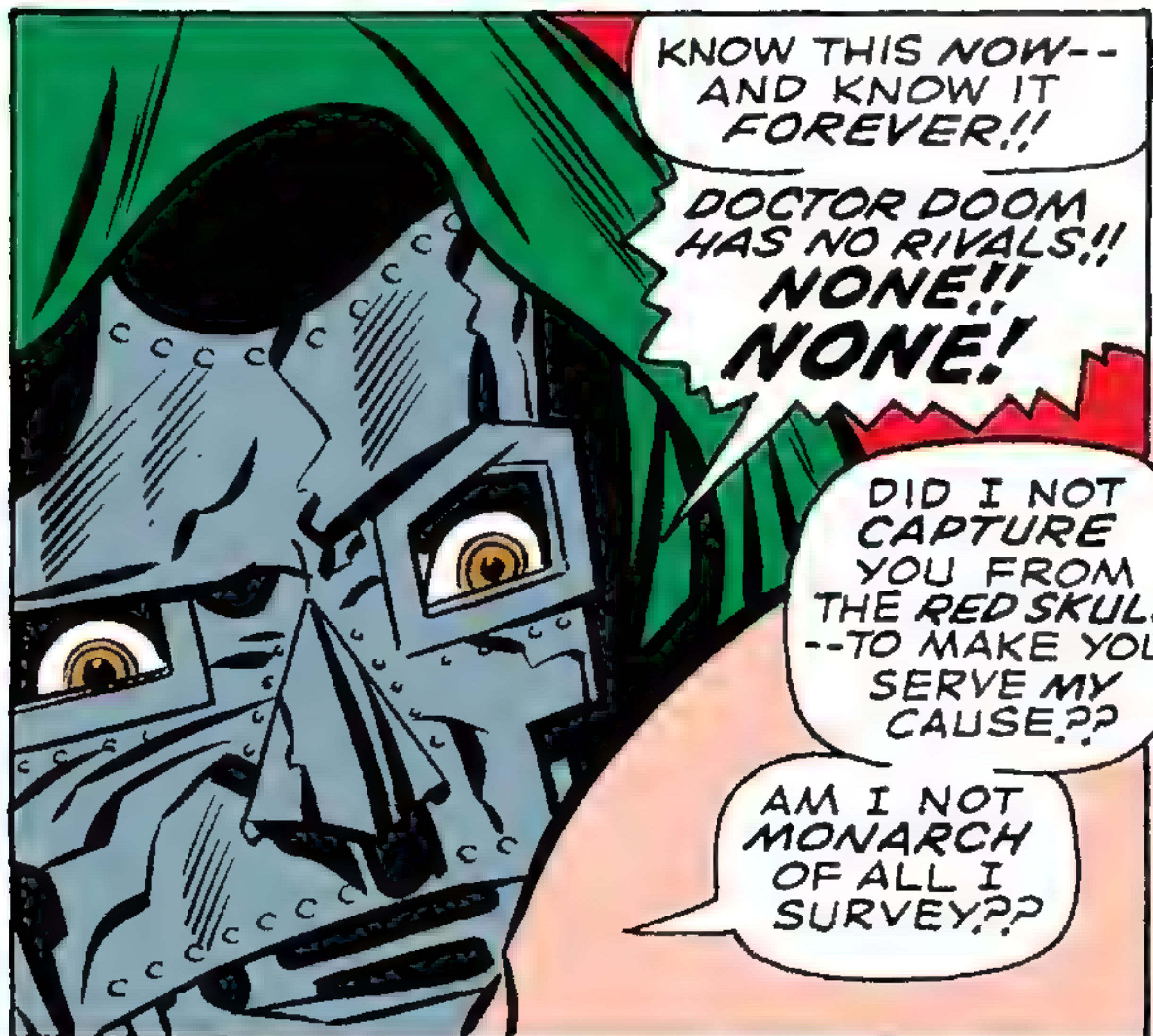
EVERY
MOMENT
IS VITAL!
EVERY
SECOND
COUNTS!

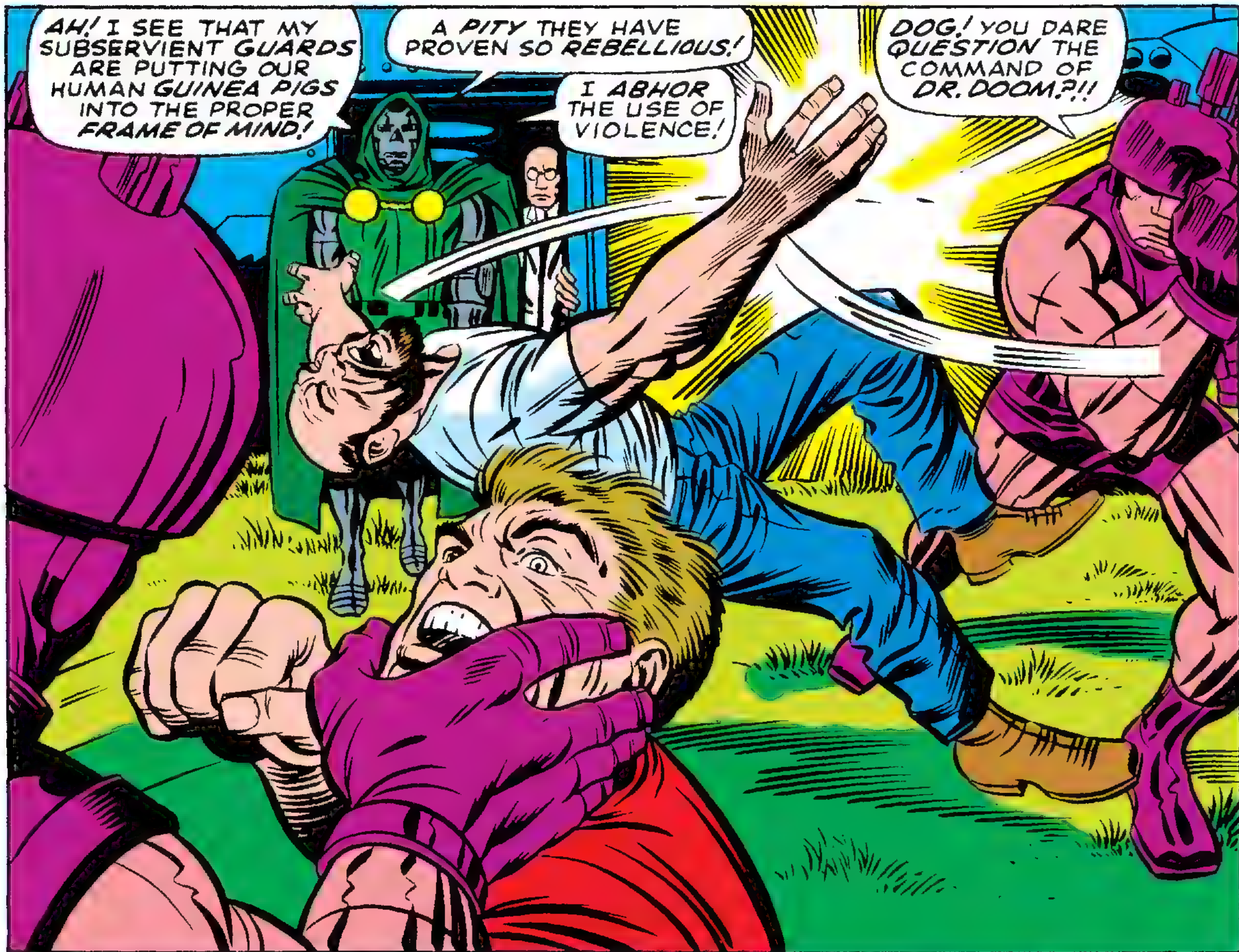
ALREADY
THE OUTSIDE
WORLD IS
BEGINNING
TO SUSPECT
WHAT I
HAVE
CREATED!

BUT, THEY
ARE
POWERLESS
TO STOP
ME! IS THAT
NOT RIGHT,
HAUPTMANN?

YES,
EXCELLENCY!
YOU ARE
RIGHT--
AS EVER!

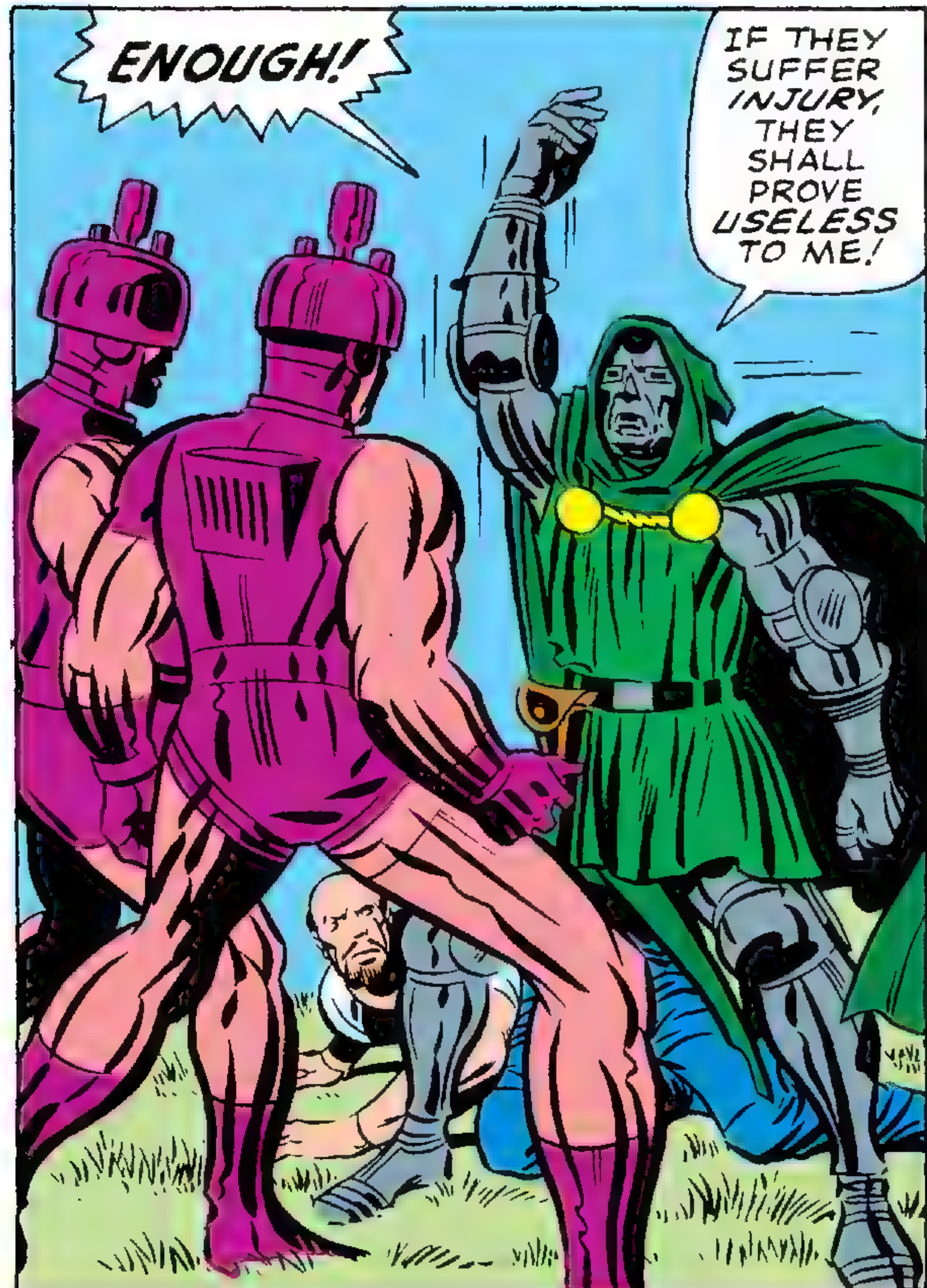
THEN LOOK
AS THOUGH
YOU MEAN
IT, YOU
DOLT!





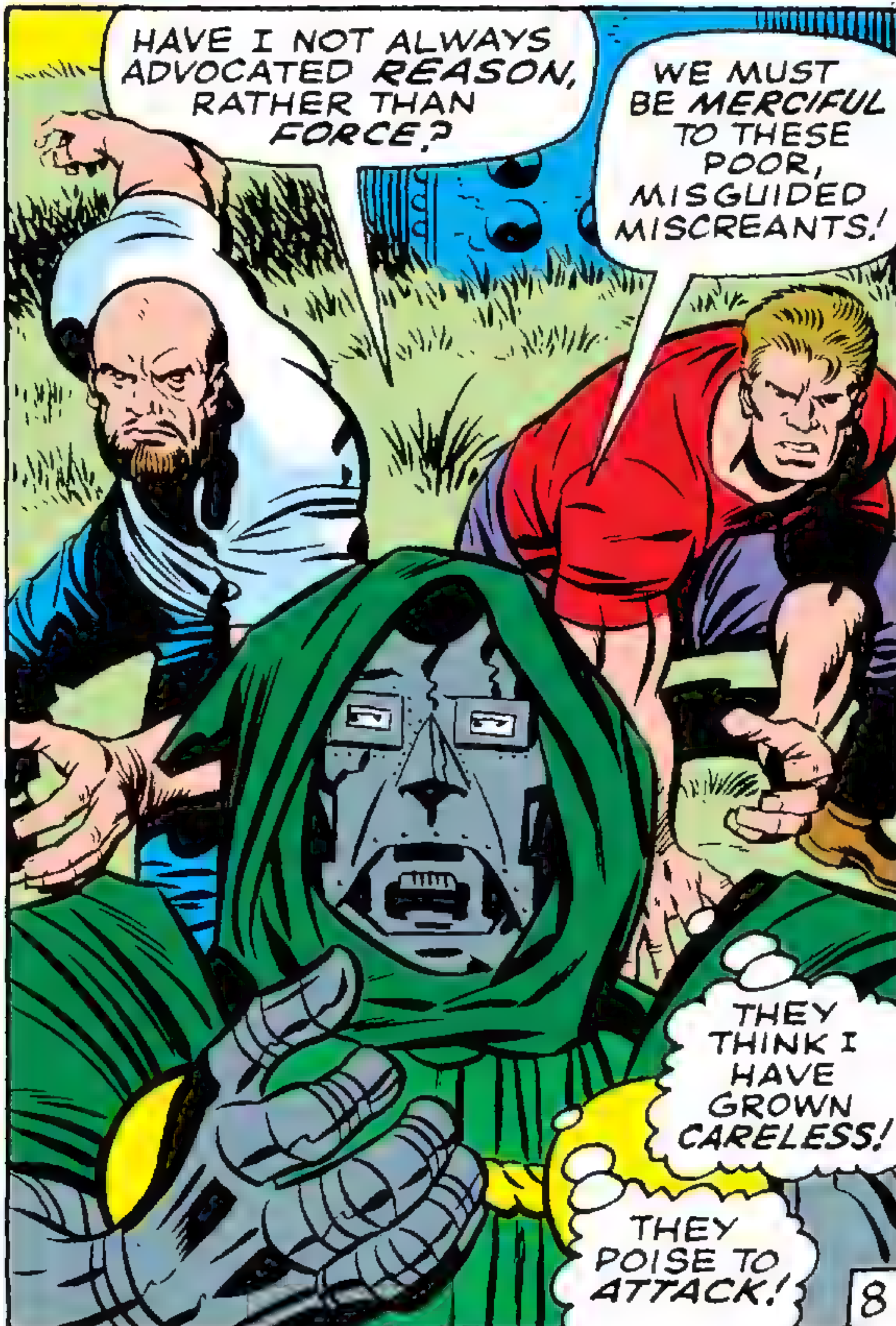
ENOUGH!

IF THEY
SUFFER
INJURY,
THEY
SHALL
PROVE
USELESS
TO ME!



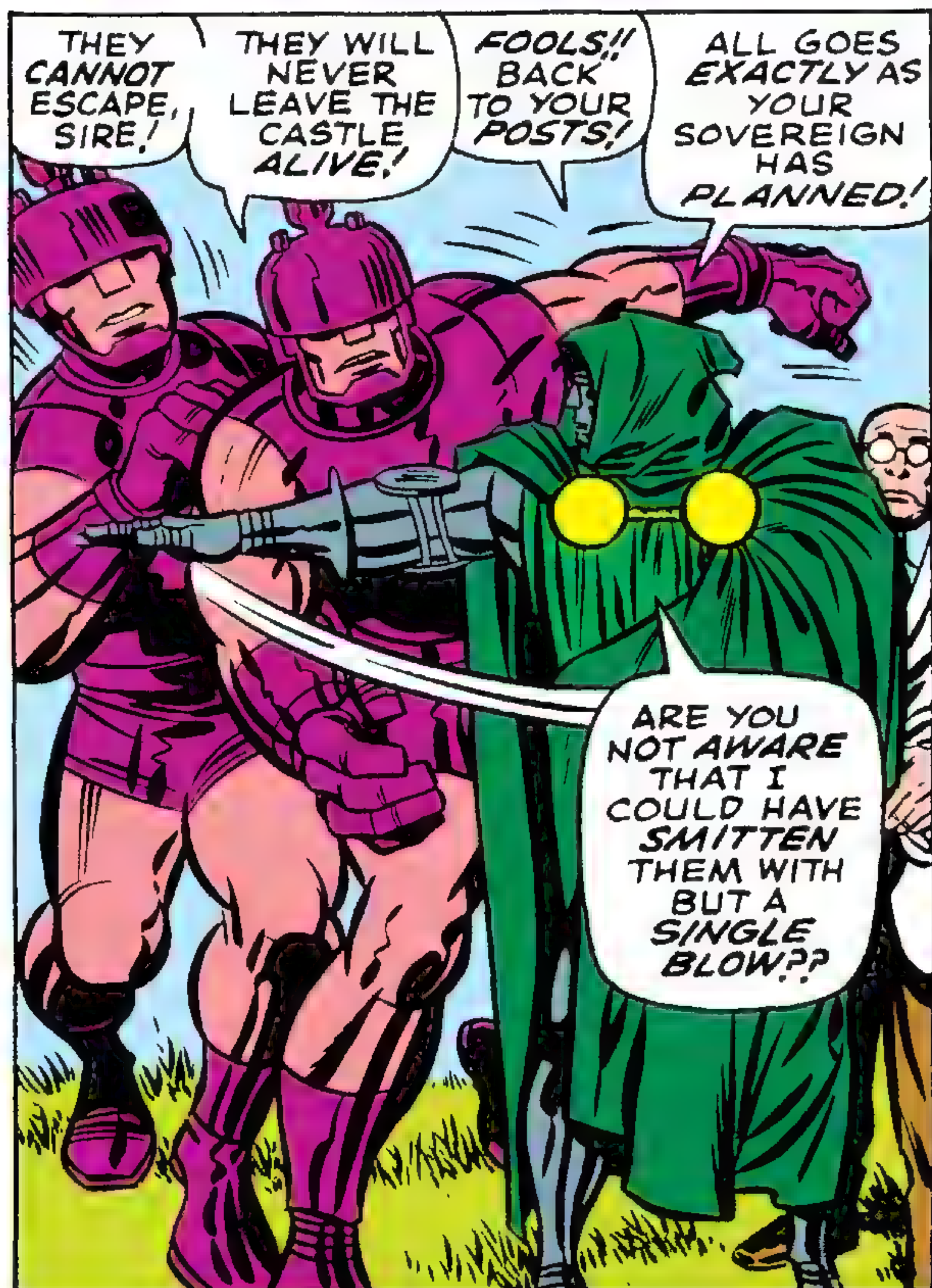
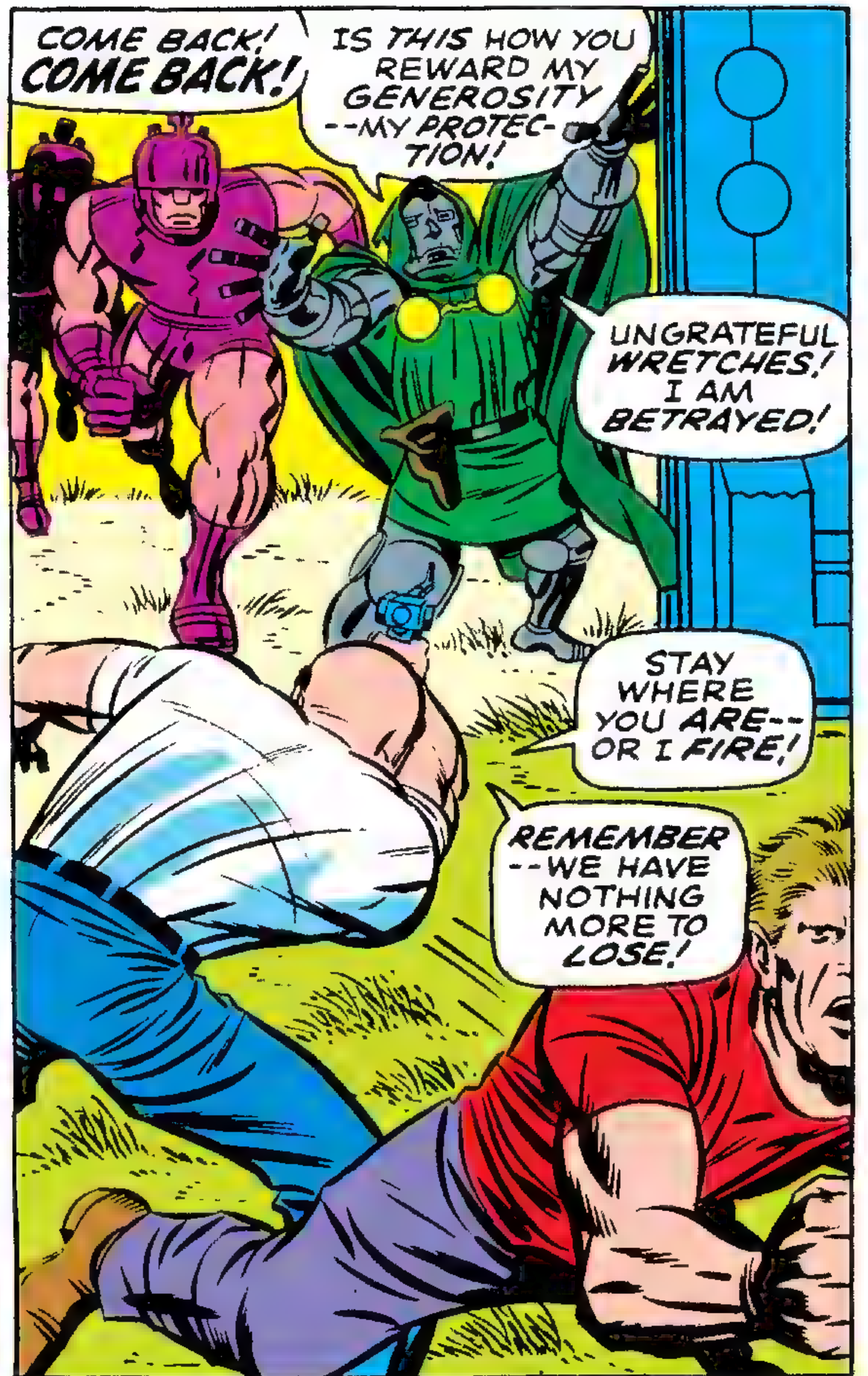
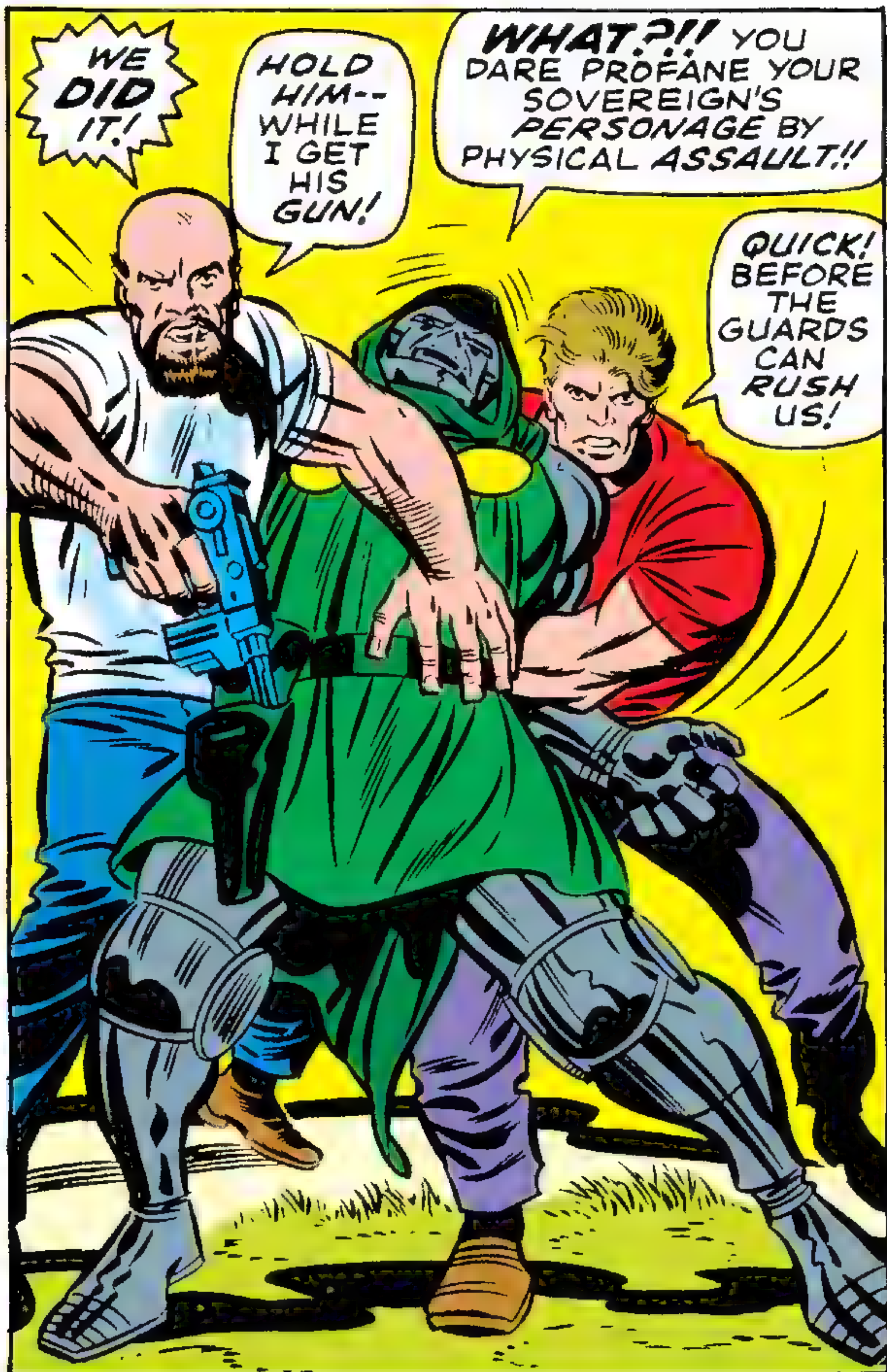
HAVE I NOT ALWAYS
ADVOCATED REASON,
RATHER THAN
FORCE?

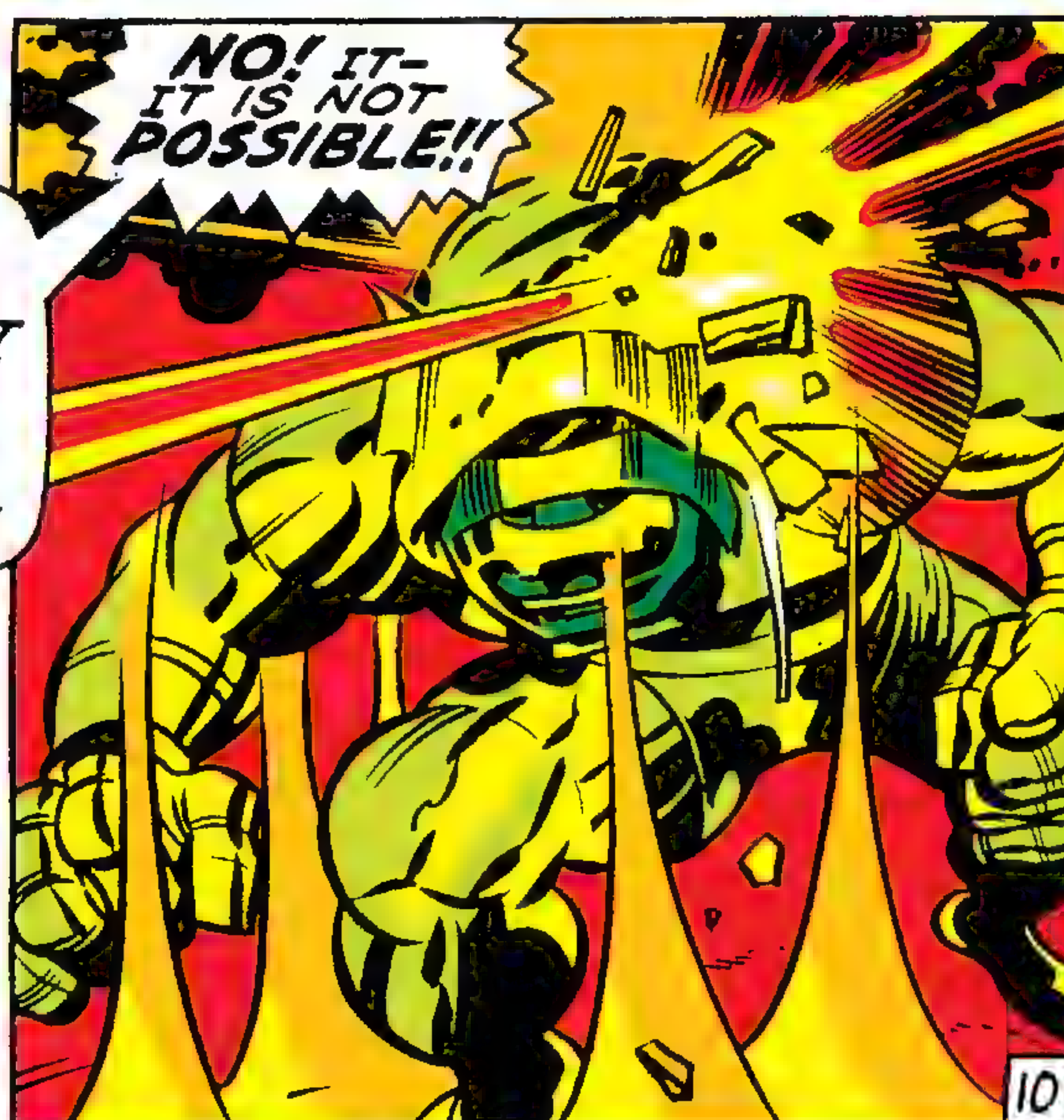
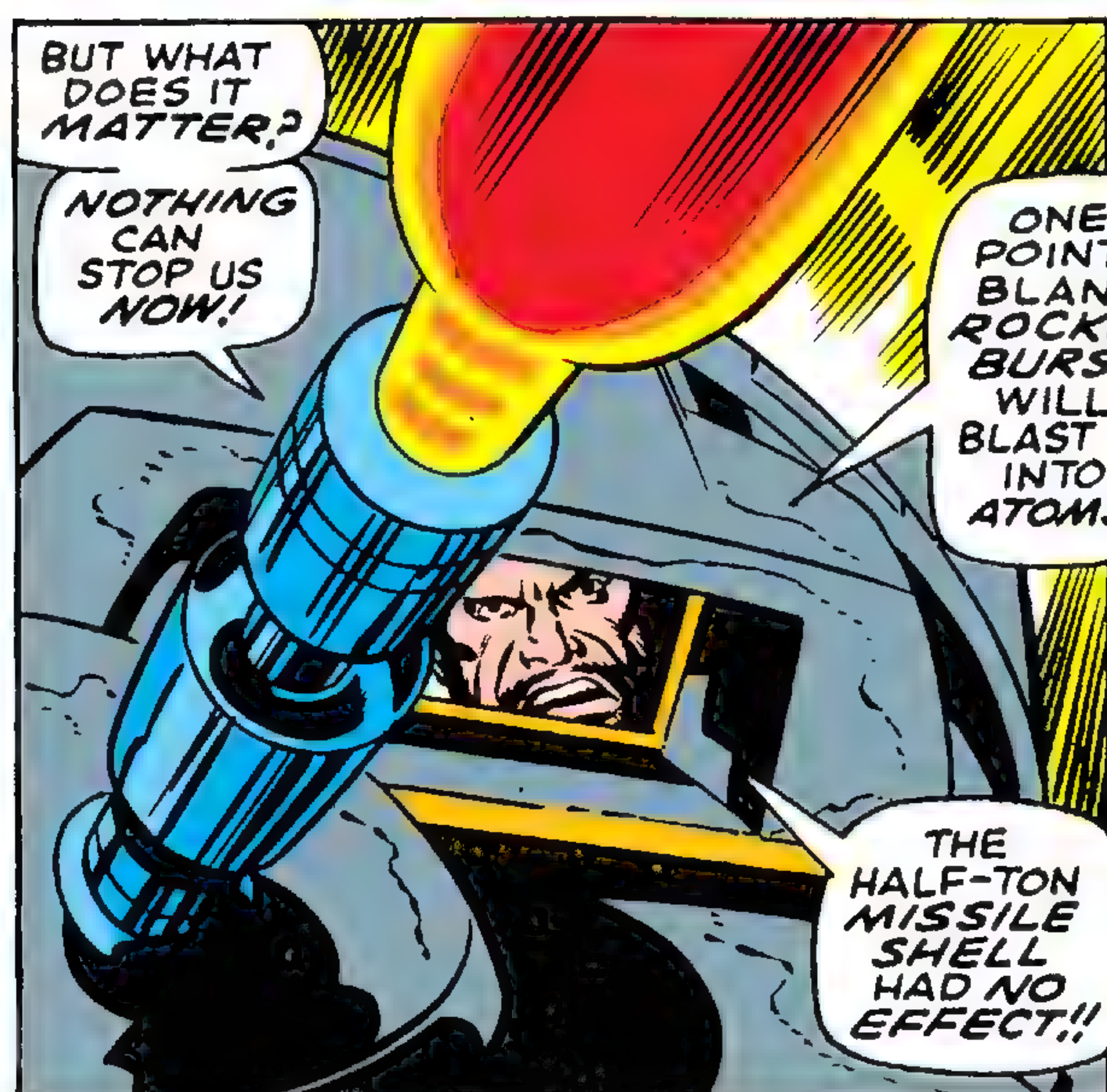
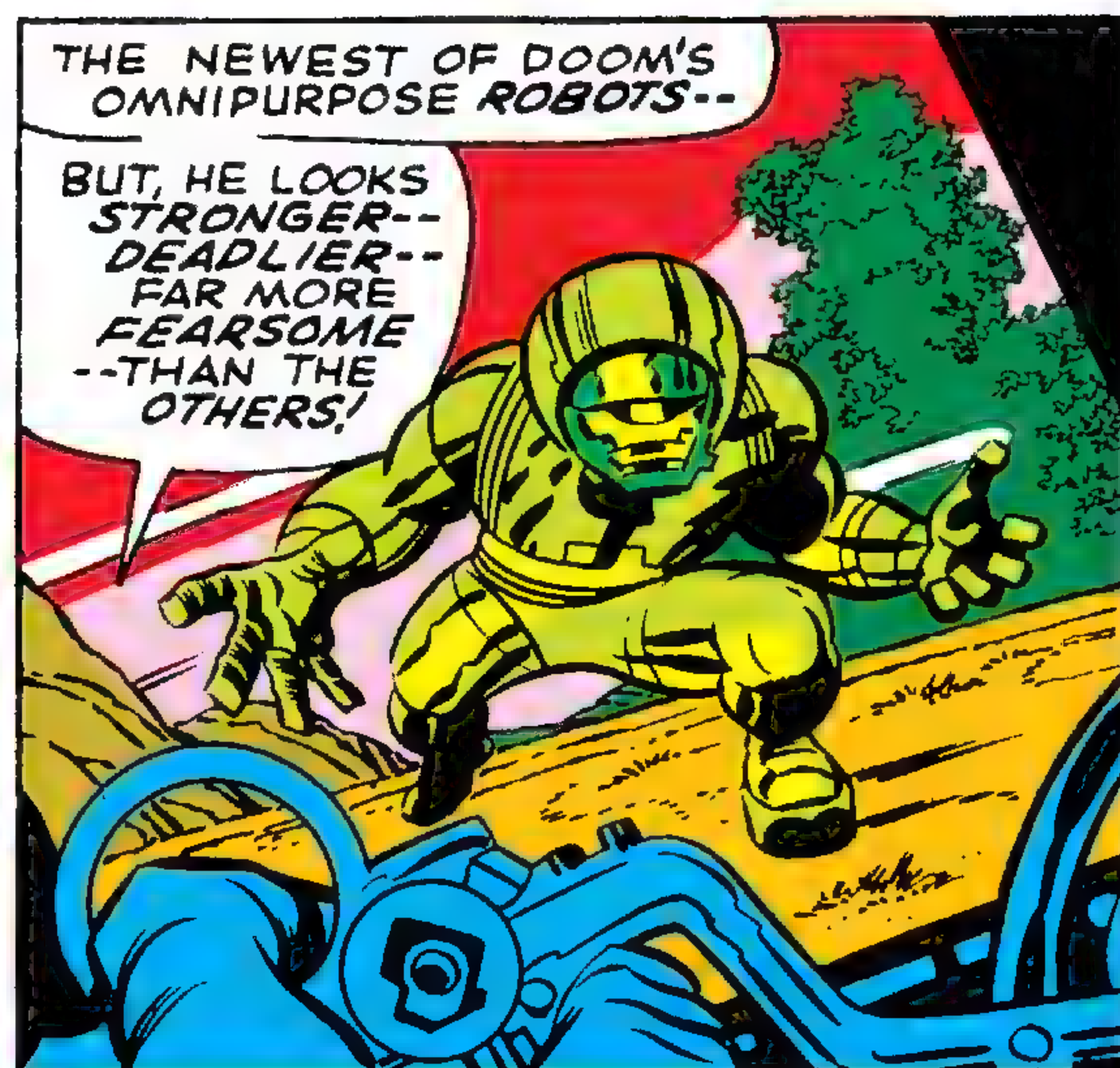
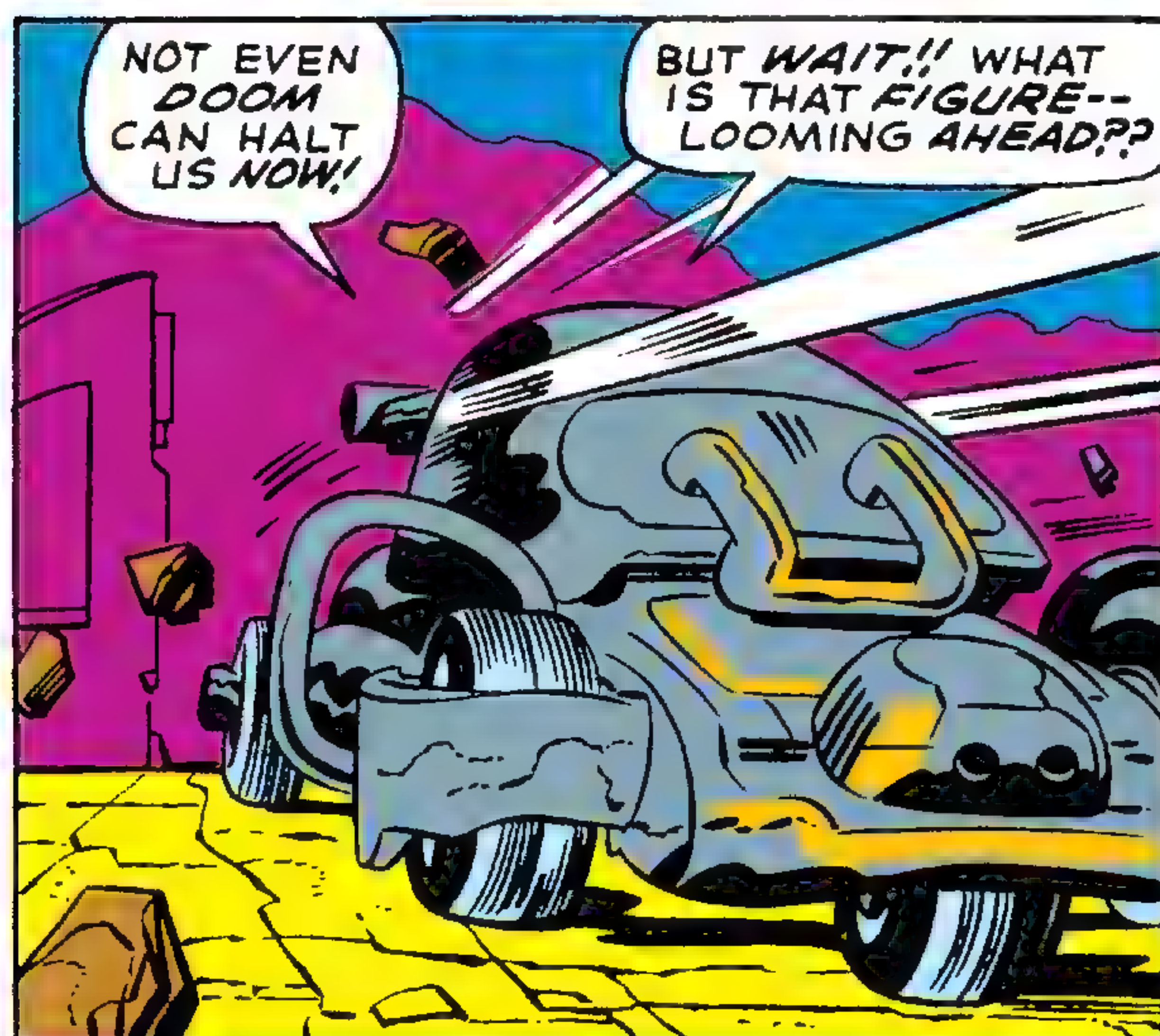
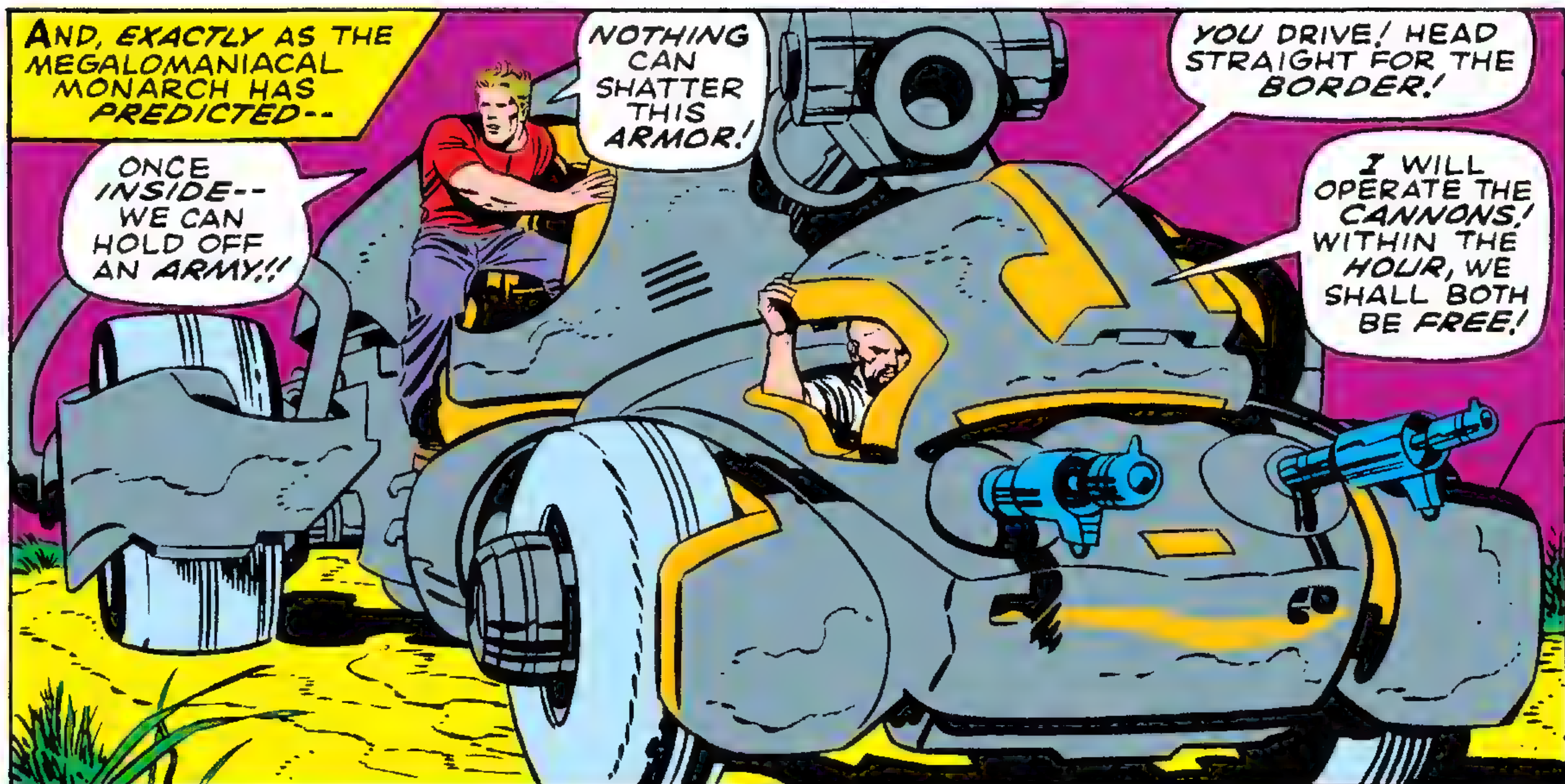
WE MUST
BE MERCIFUL
TO THESE
POOR,
MISGUIDED
MISCREANTS!

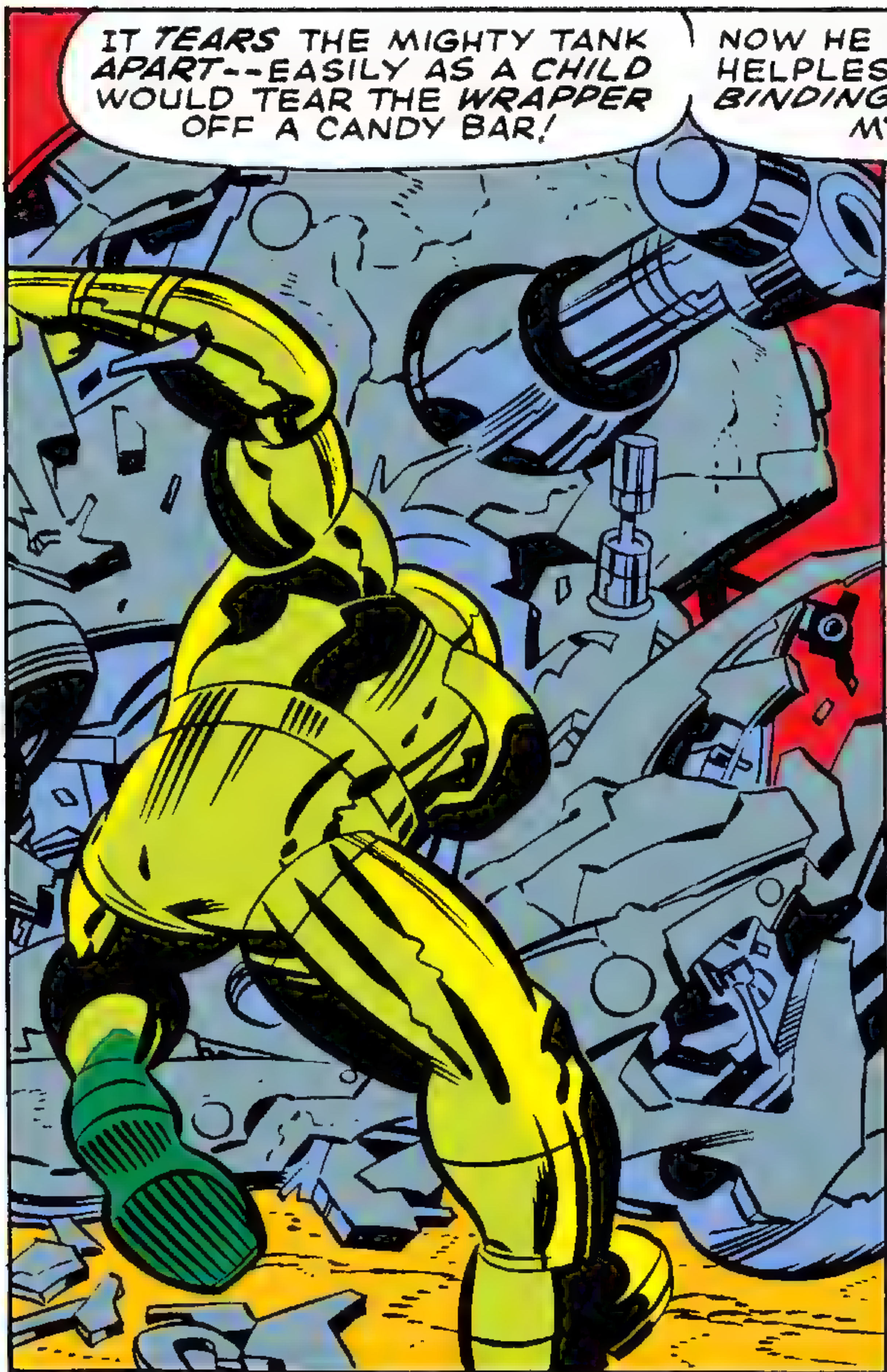


THEY
THINK I
HAVE
GROWN
CARELESS!

THEY
POISE TO
ATTACK!

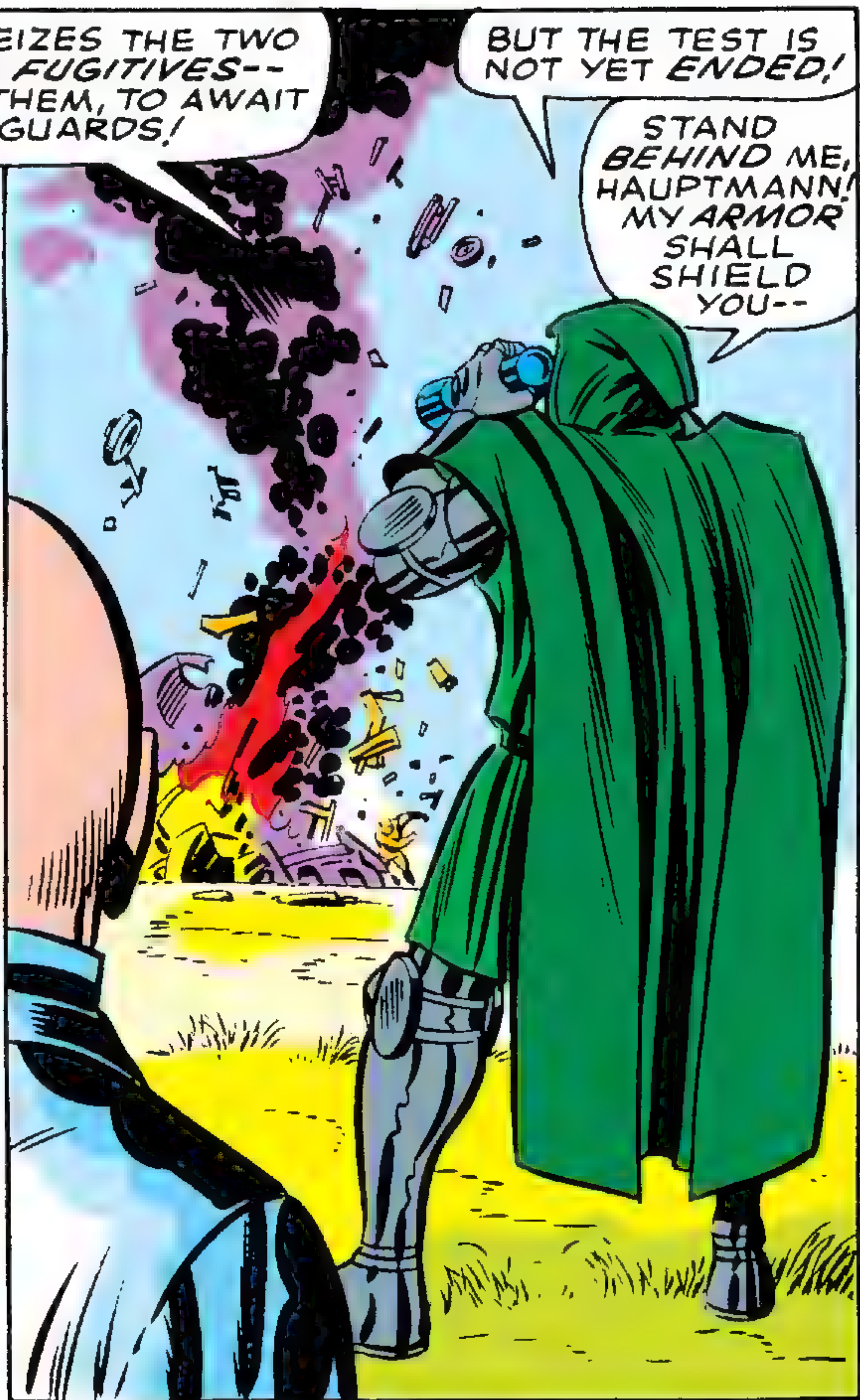






IT TEARS THE MIGHTY TANK APART--EASILY AS A CHILD WOULD TEAR THE WRAPPER OFF A CANDY BAR!

NOW HE SEIZES THE TWO HELPLESS FUGITIVES-- BINDING THEM, TO AWAIT MY GUARDS!



BUT THE TEST IS NOT YET ENDED!

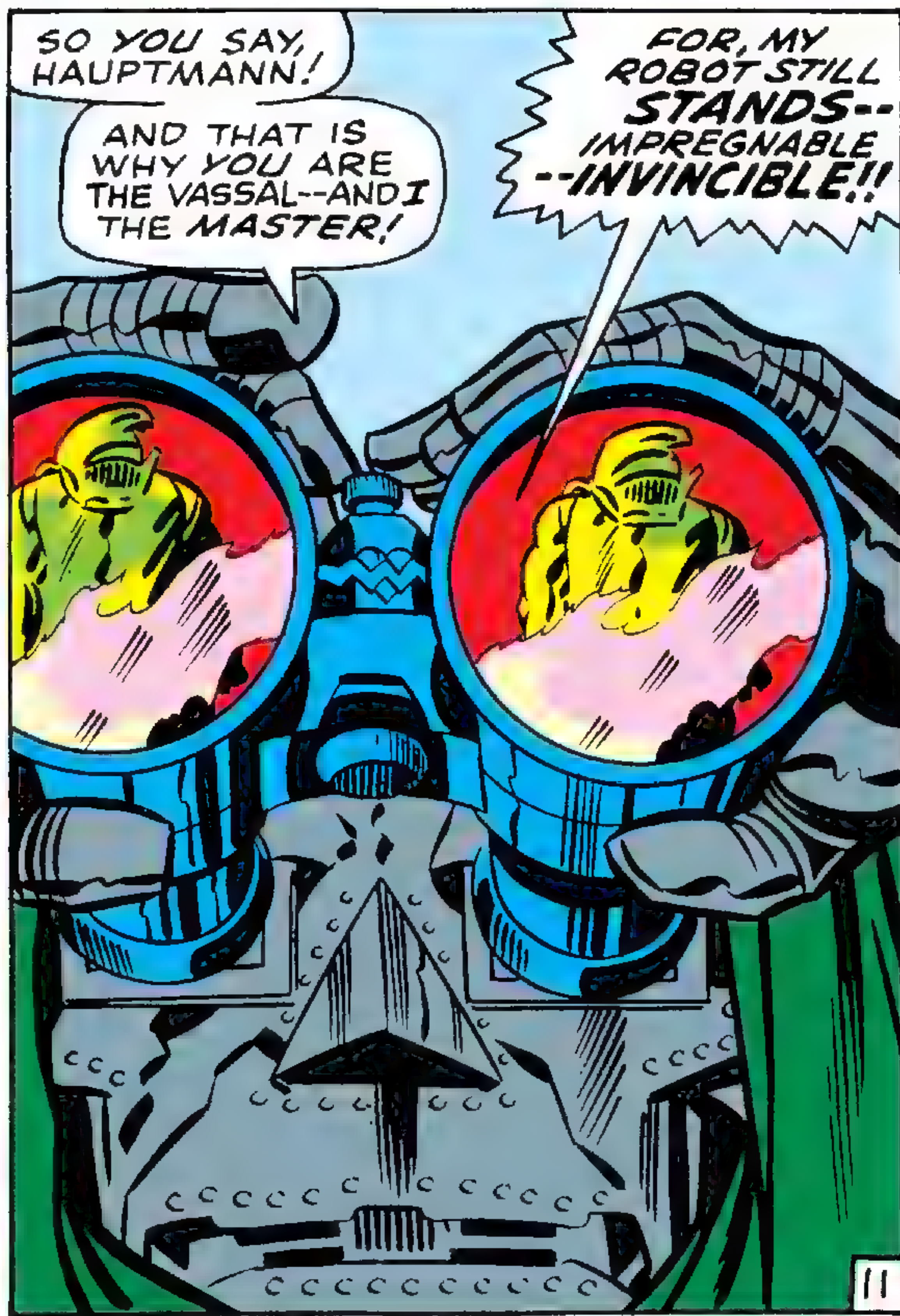
STAND BEHIND ME, HAUPTMANN! MY ARMOR SHALL SHIELD YOU--



--FROM THE IMPACT OF THE EXPLODING FUEL!!

THE ROBOT-- WILL BE DESTROYED!

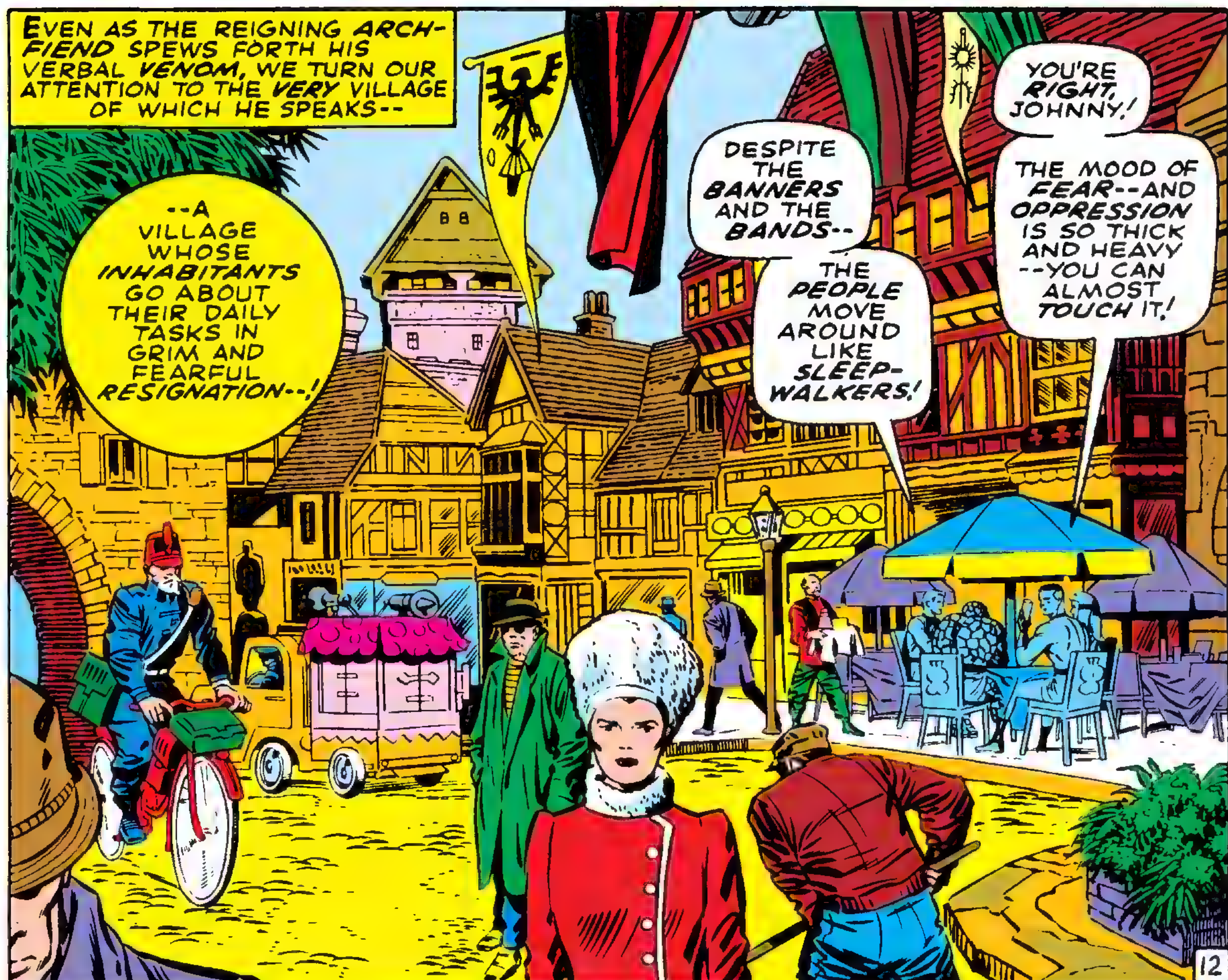
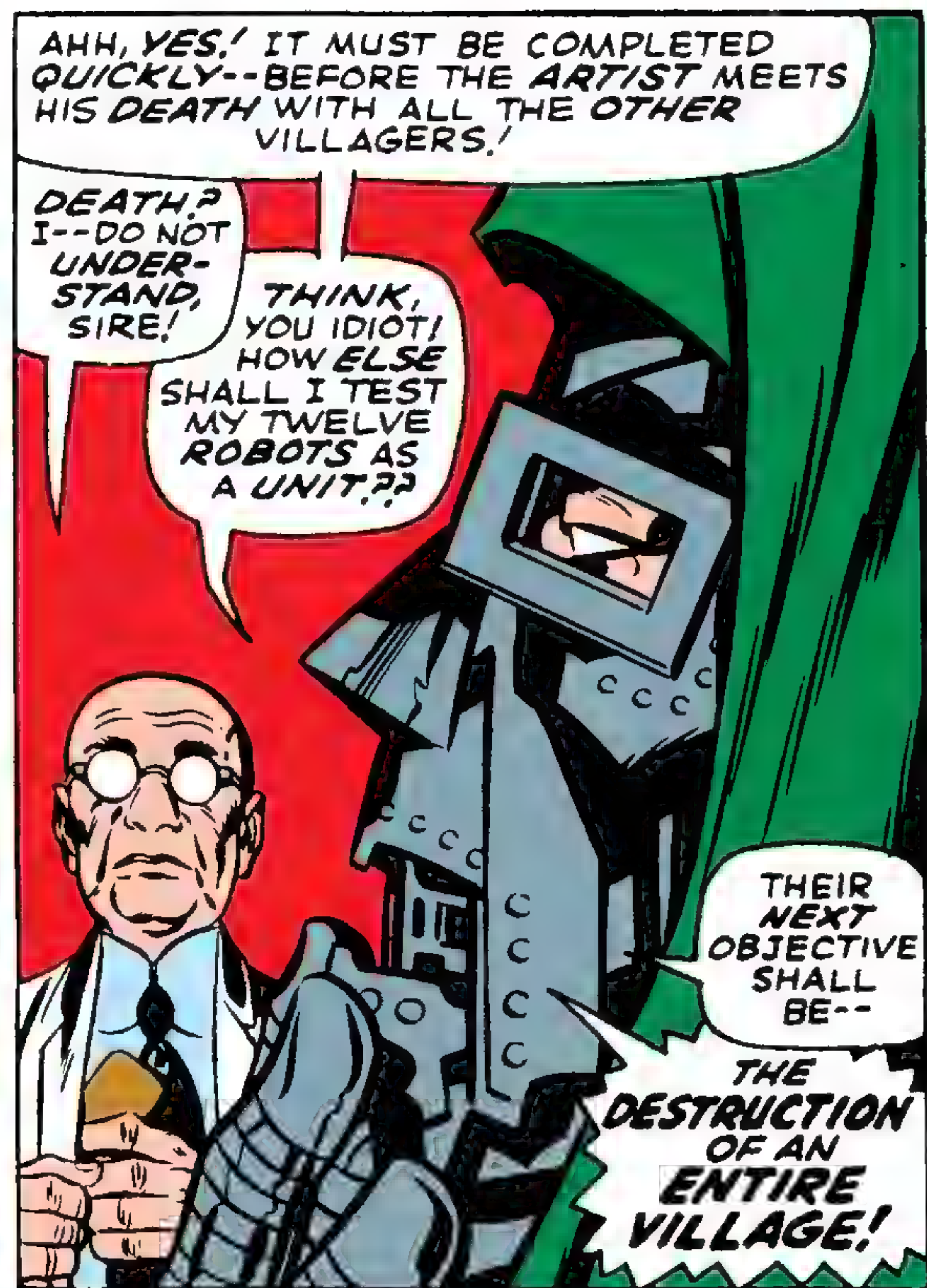
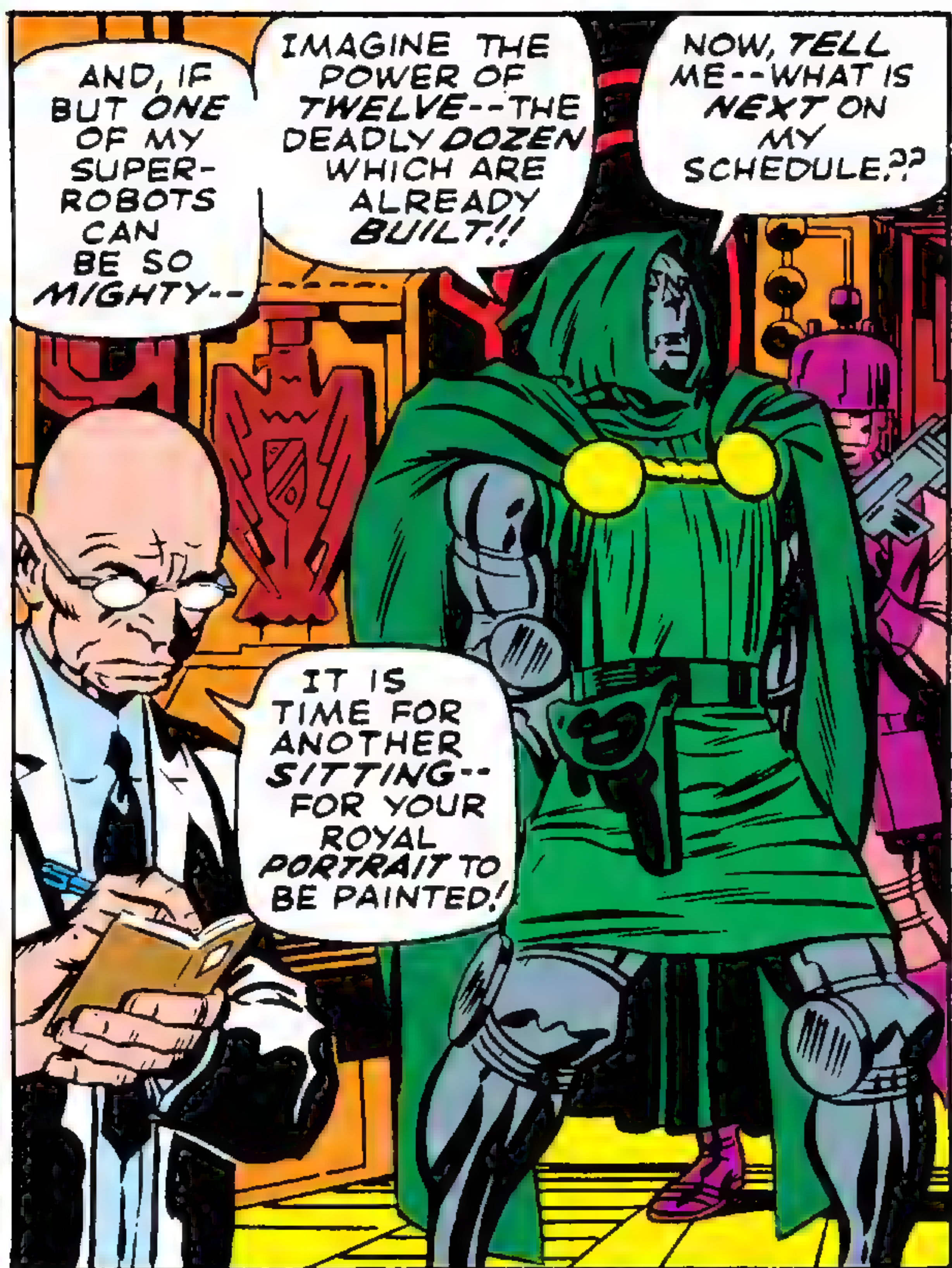
NOTHING COULD SURVIVE THAT HOLOCAUST-- AT SUCH CLOSE RANGE!



SO YOU SAY, HAUPTMANN!

AND THAT IS WHY YOU ARE THE VASSAL--AND I THE MASTER!

FOR, MY ROBOT STILL STANDS-- IMPREGNABLE --INVINCIBLE!!





WELL, I'LL SAY ONE THING FER DOOM--

EVEN IF HE IS THE WORLD'S CHAMPION CREEP--HE FEEDS YA PRETTY GOOD!

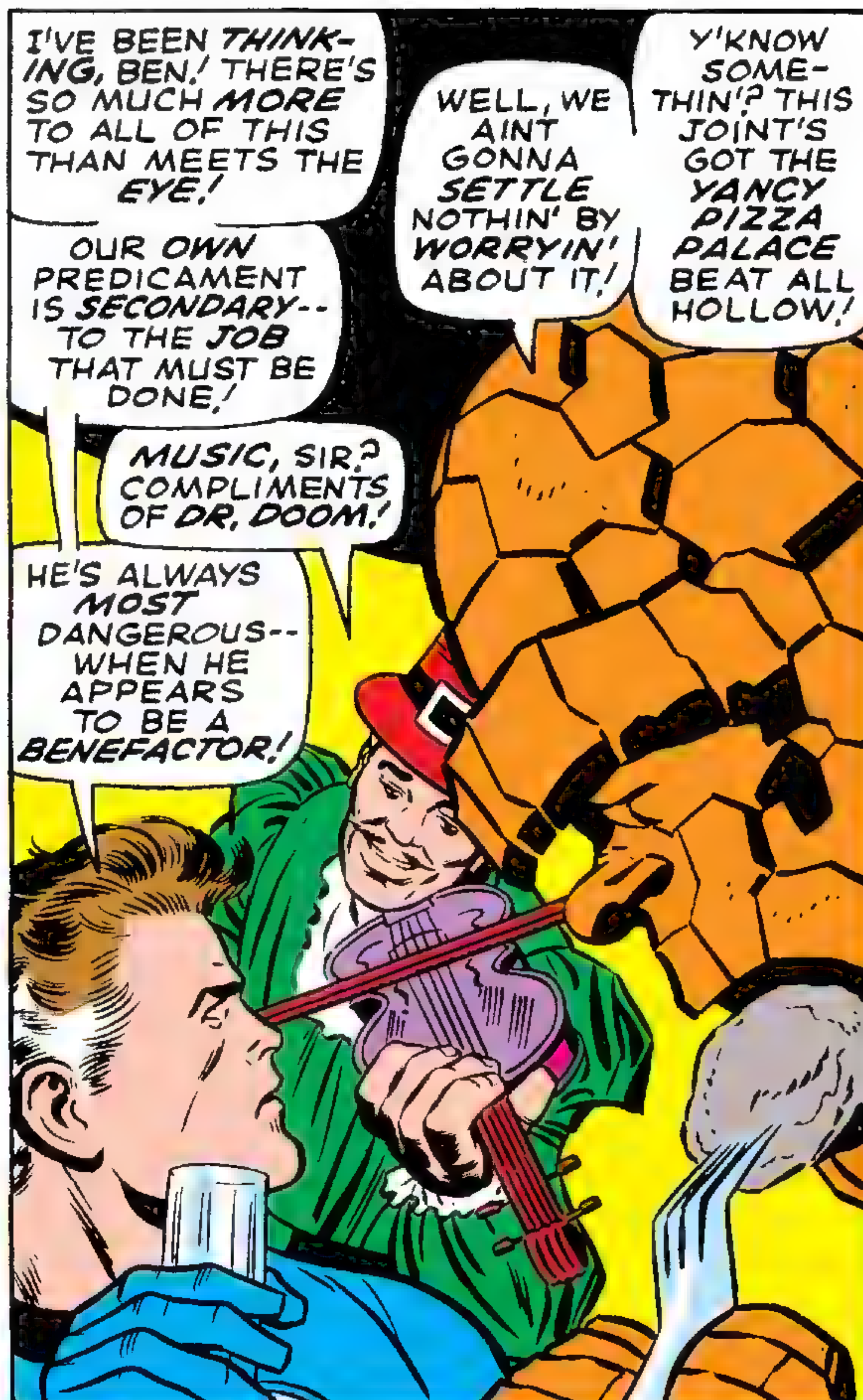
MAYBE SO, BEN--BUT I CAN'T HELP FEELING LIKE A FATTED CALF--BEING LED TO THE SLAUGHTER!

THE THING THAT WORRIES ME THE MOST IS--HOW DID WE HAPPEN TO LOSE OUR POWERS??

AND WILL WE EVER GET THEM BACK?

WHAT'S WITH YOU, STRETCHO??

I NEVER HEARD YA SO QUIET BEFORE --NOT THAT I'M COMPLAININ'!



I'VE BEEN THINKING, BEN! THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO ALL OF THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE!

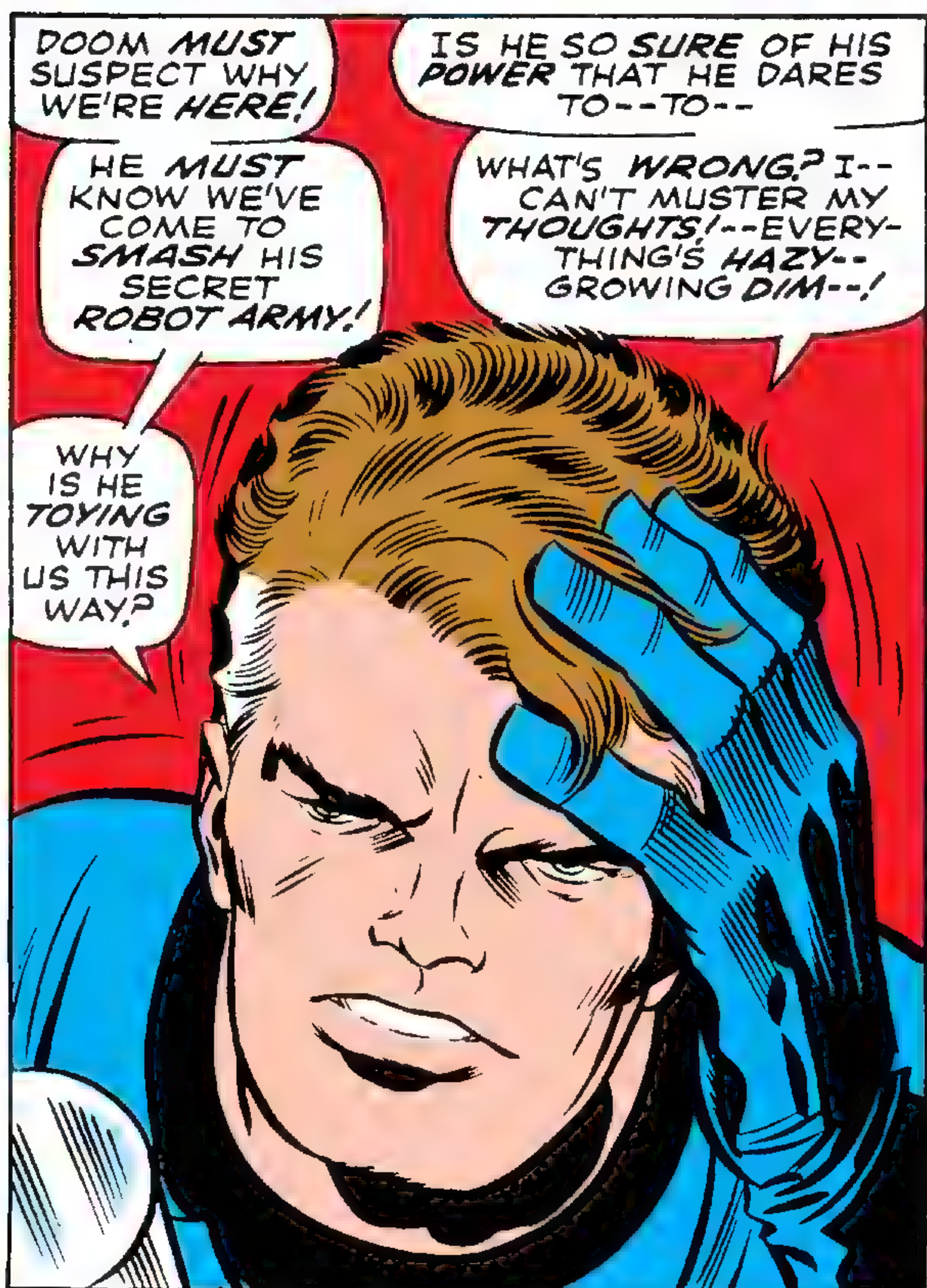
OUR OWN PREDICAMENT IS SECONDARY-- TO THE JOB THAT MUST BE DONE!

MUSIC, SIR? COMPLIMENTS OF DR. DOOM!

HE'S ALWAYS MOST DANGEROUS-- WHEN HE APPEARS TO BE A BENEFACTOR!

WELL, WE AINT GONNA SETTLE NOTHIN' BY WORRYIN' ABOUT IT!

Y'KNOW SOMETHIN'? THIS JOINT'S GOT THE YANCY PIZZA PALACE BEAT ALL HOLLOW!



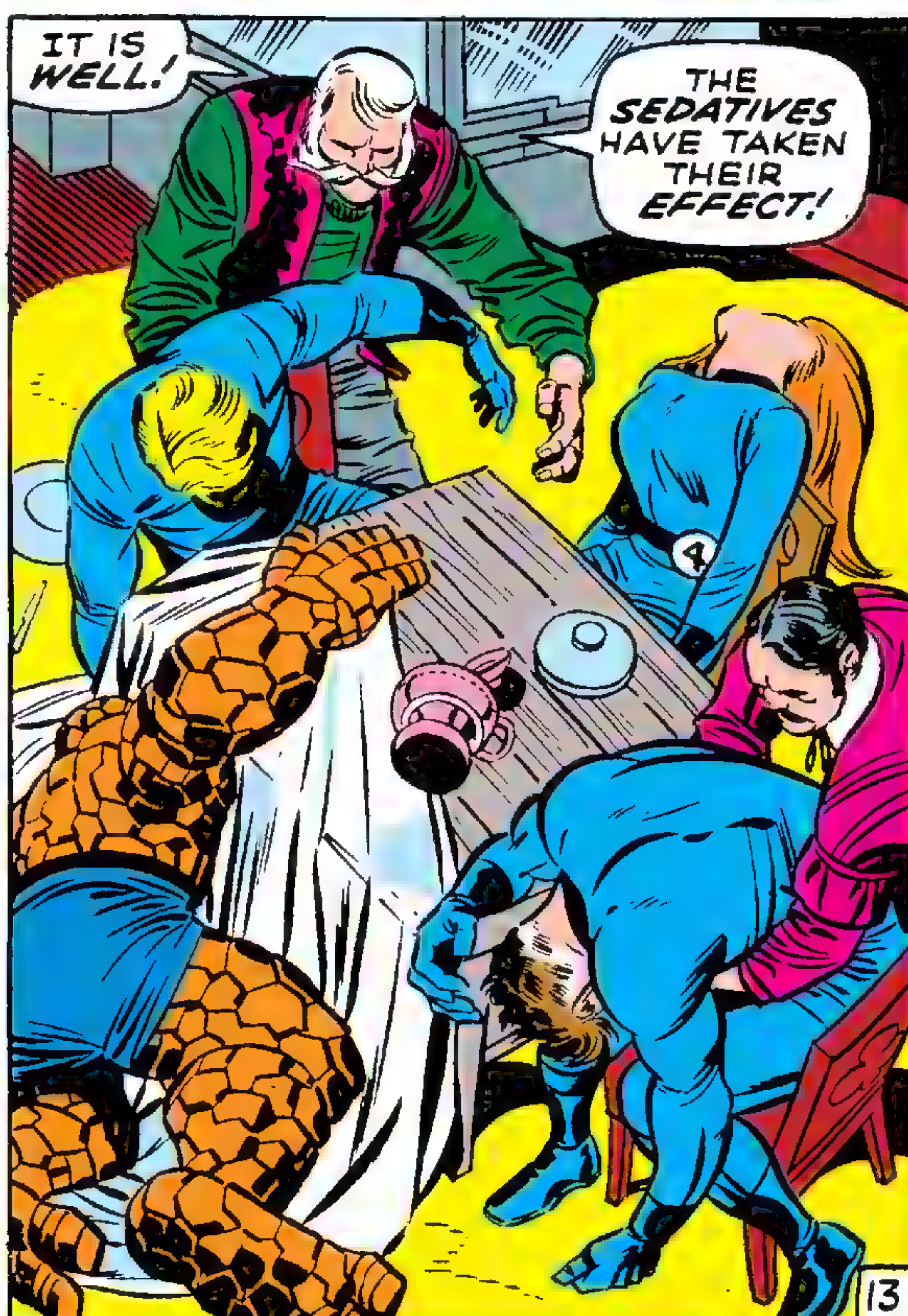
DOOM MUST SUSPECT WHY WE'RE HERE!

HE MUST KNOW WE'VE COME TO SMASH HIS SECRET ROBOT ARMY!

WHY IS HE TOYING WITH US THIS WAY?

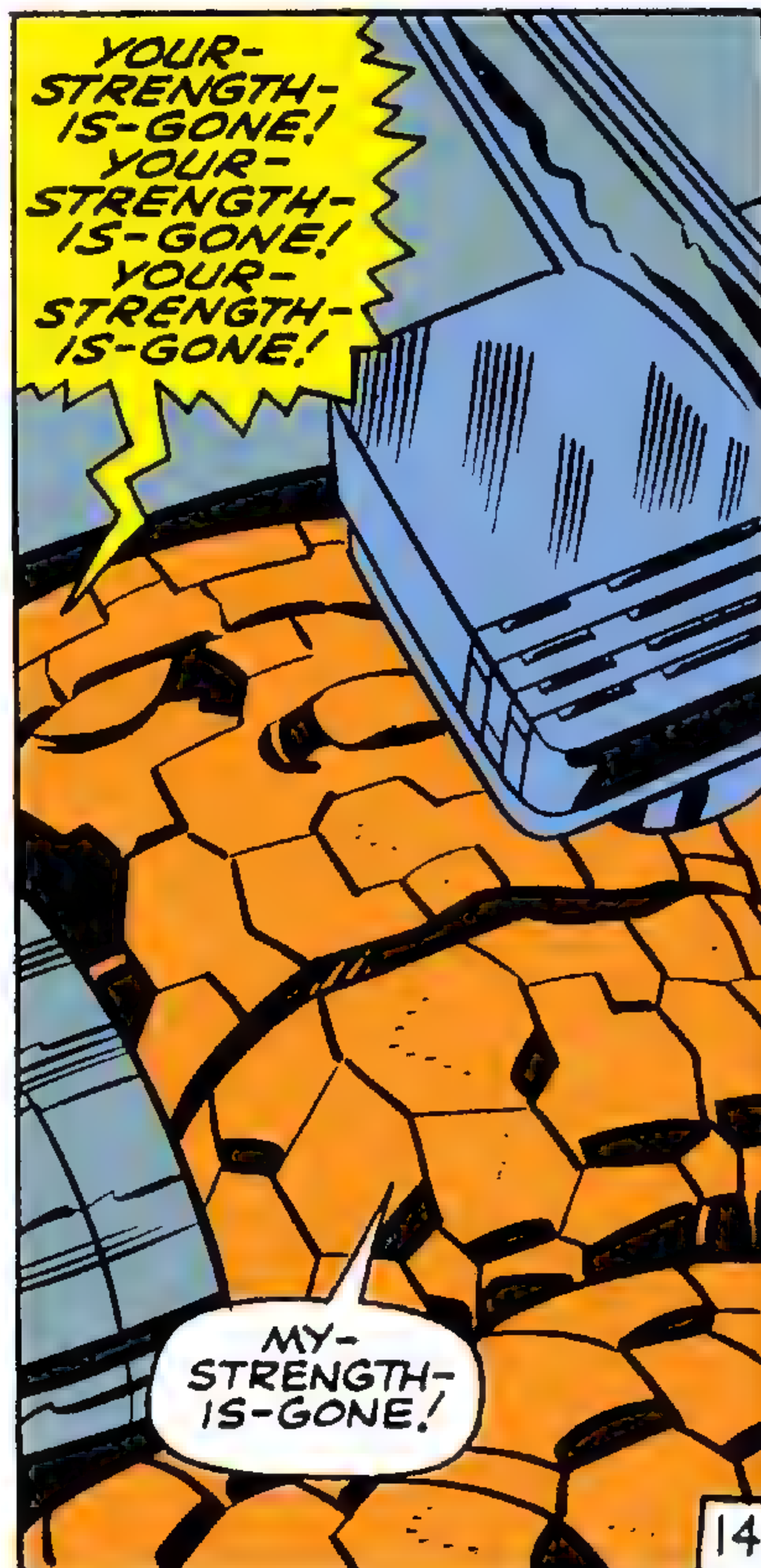
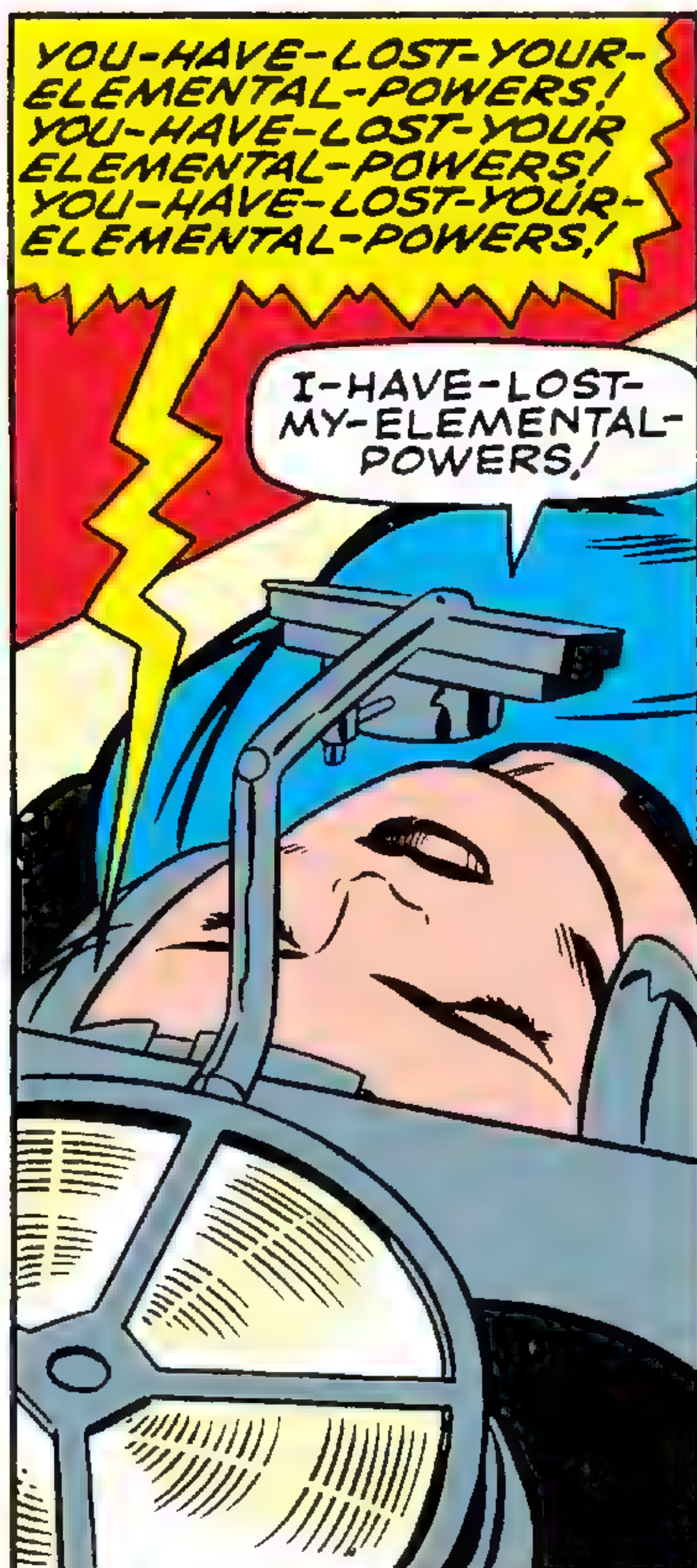
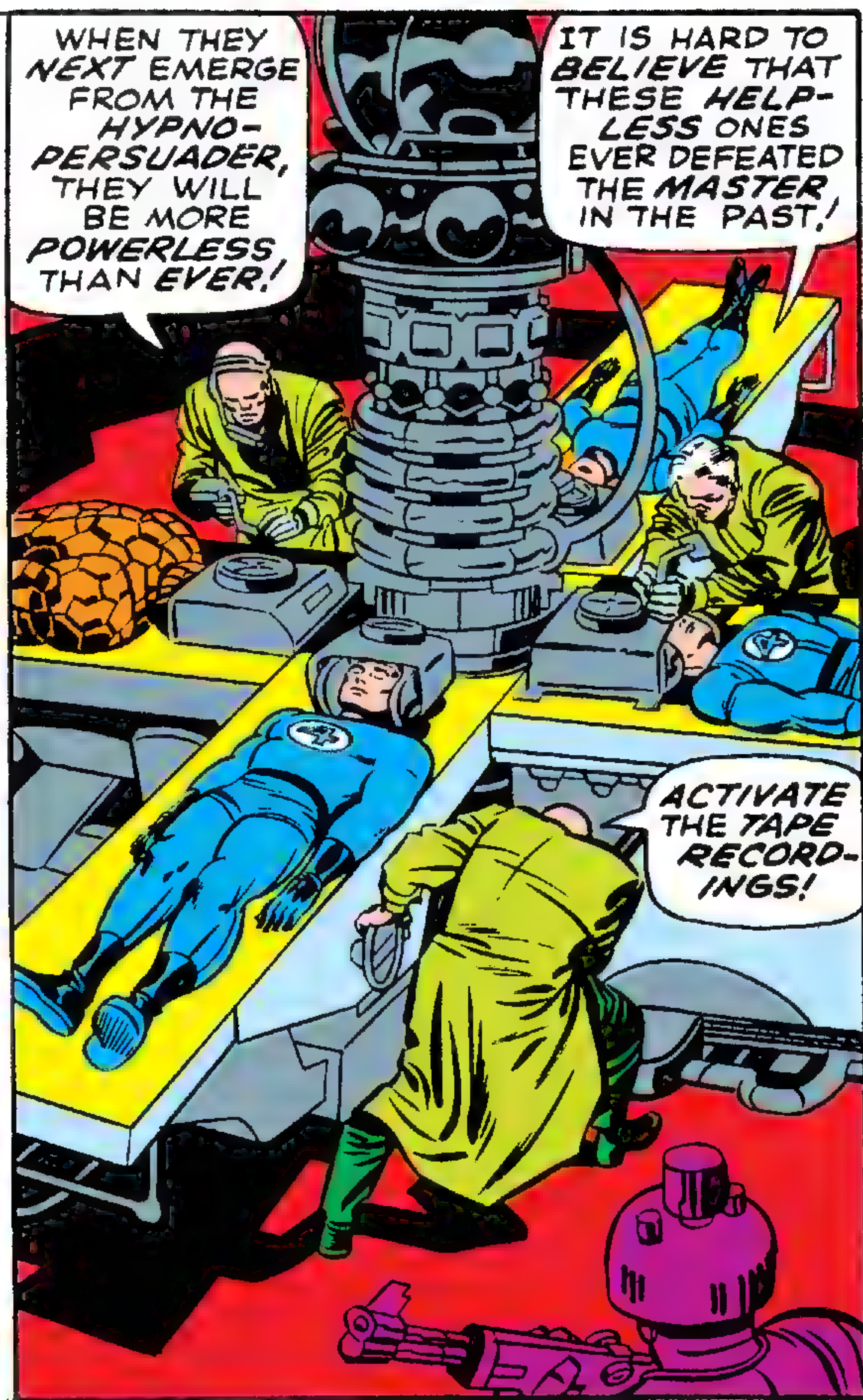
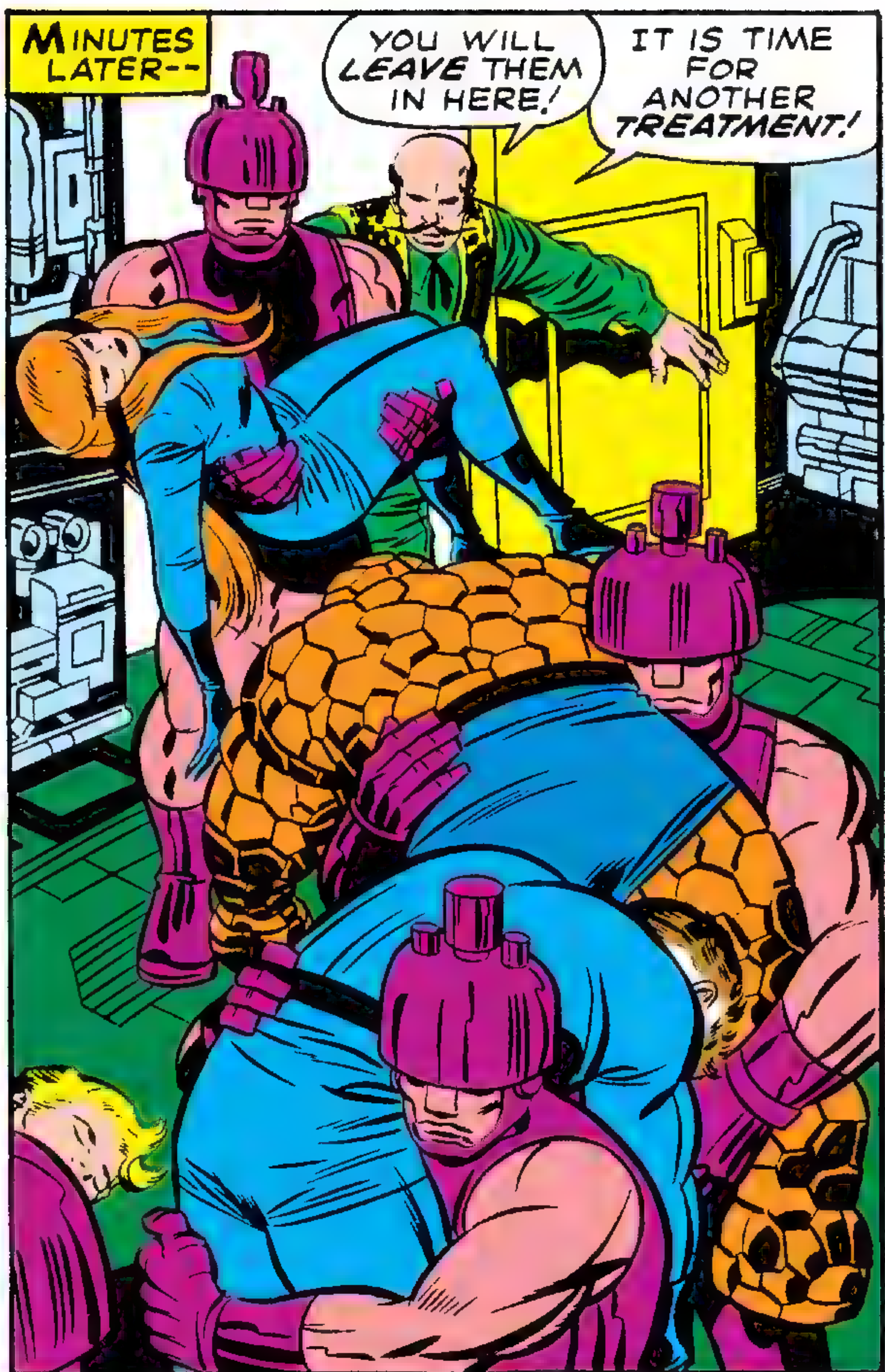
IS HE SO SURE OF HIS POWER THAT HE DARES TO--TO--

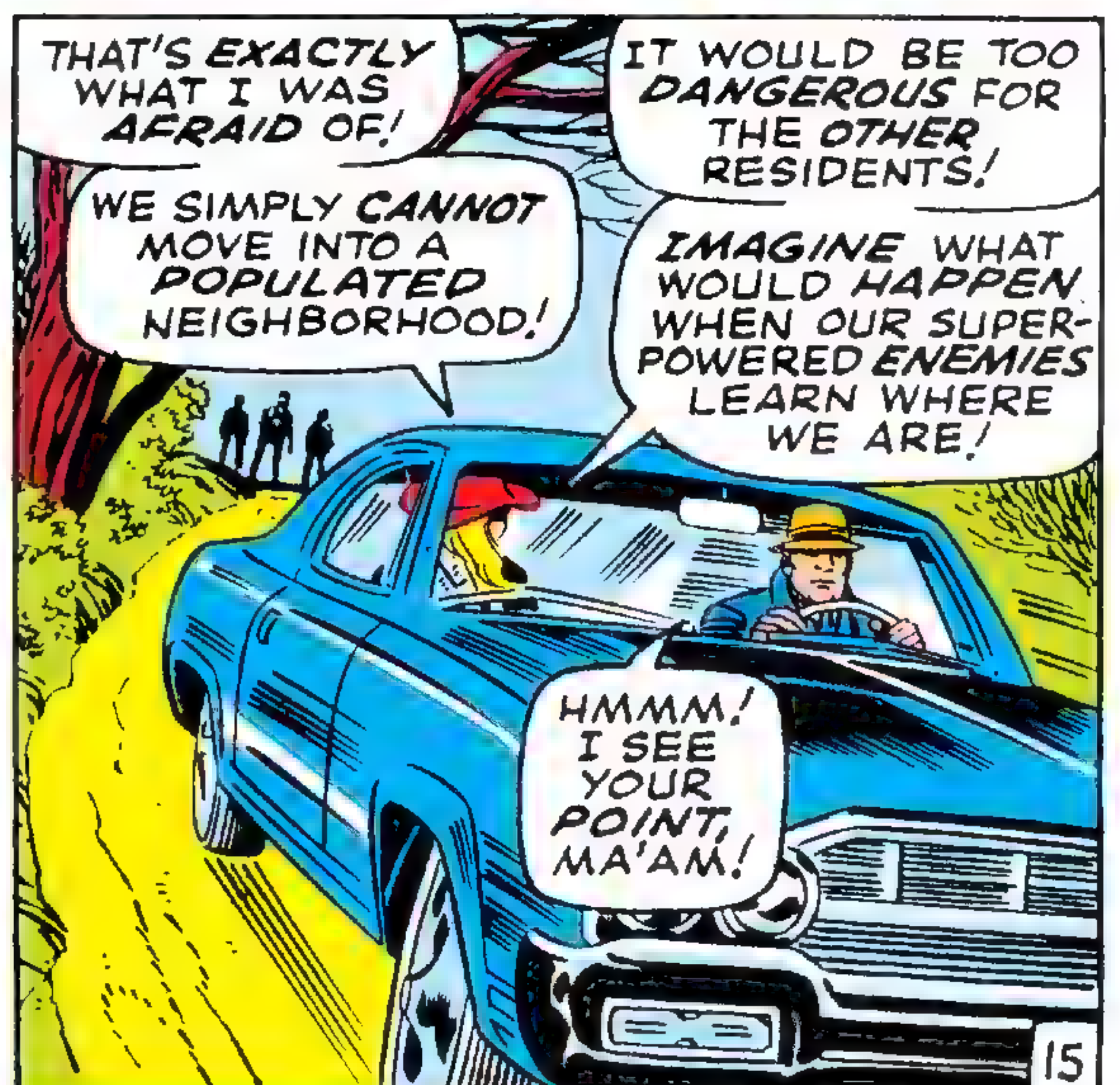
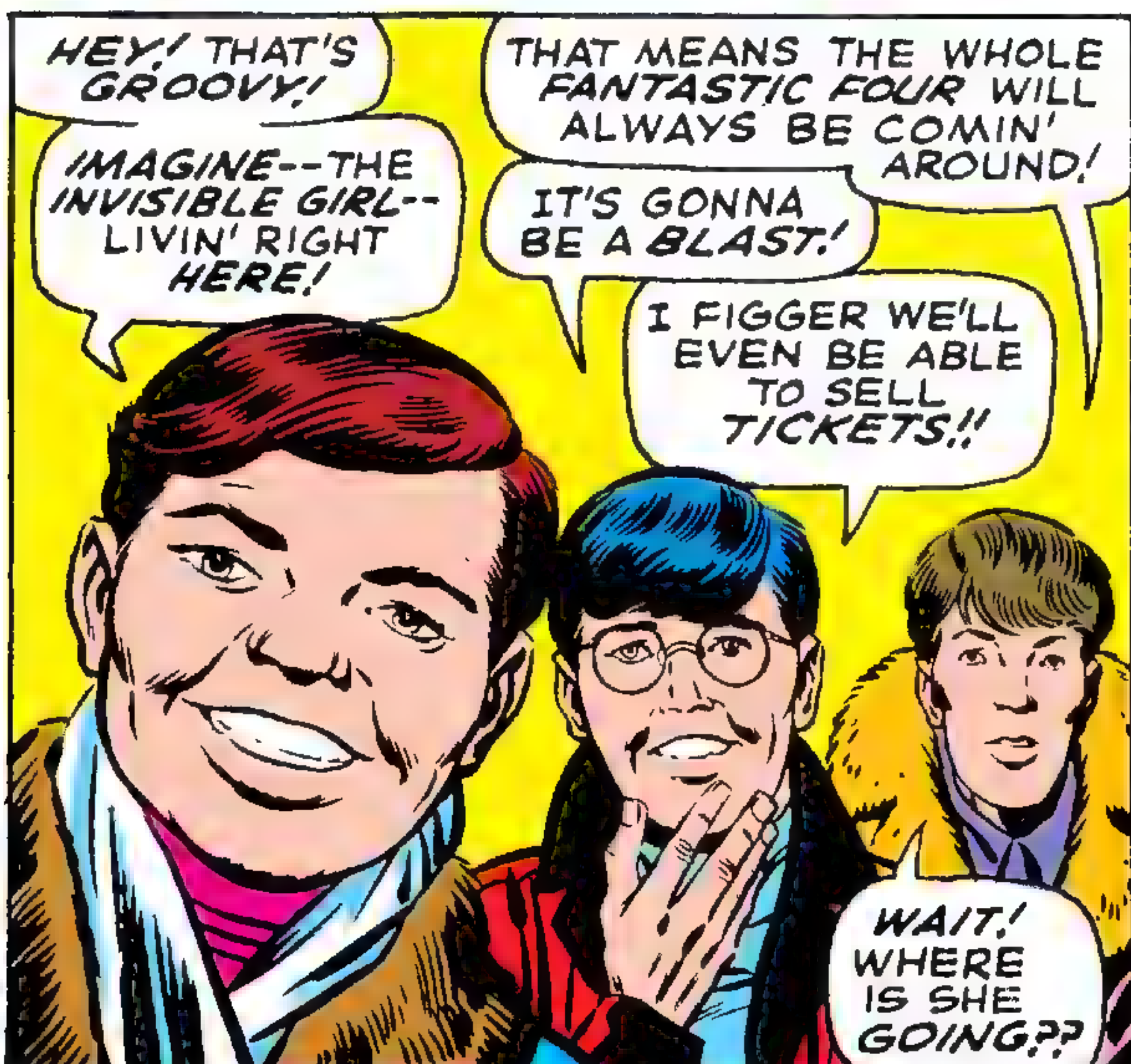
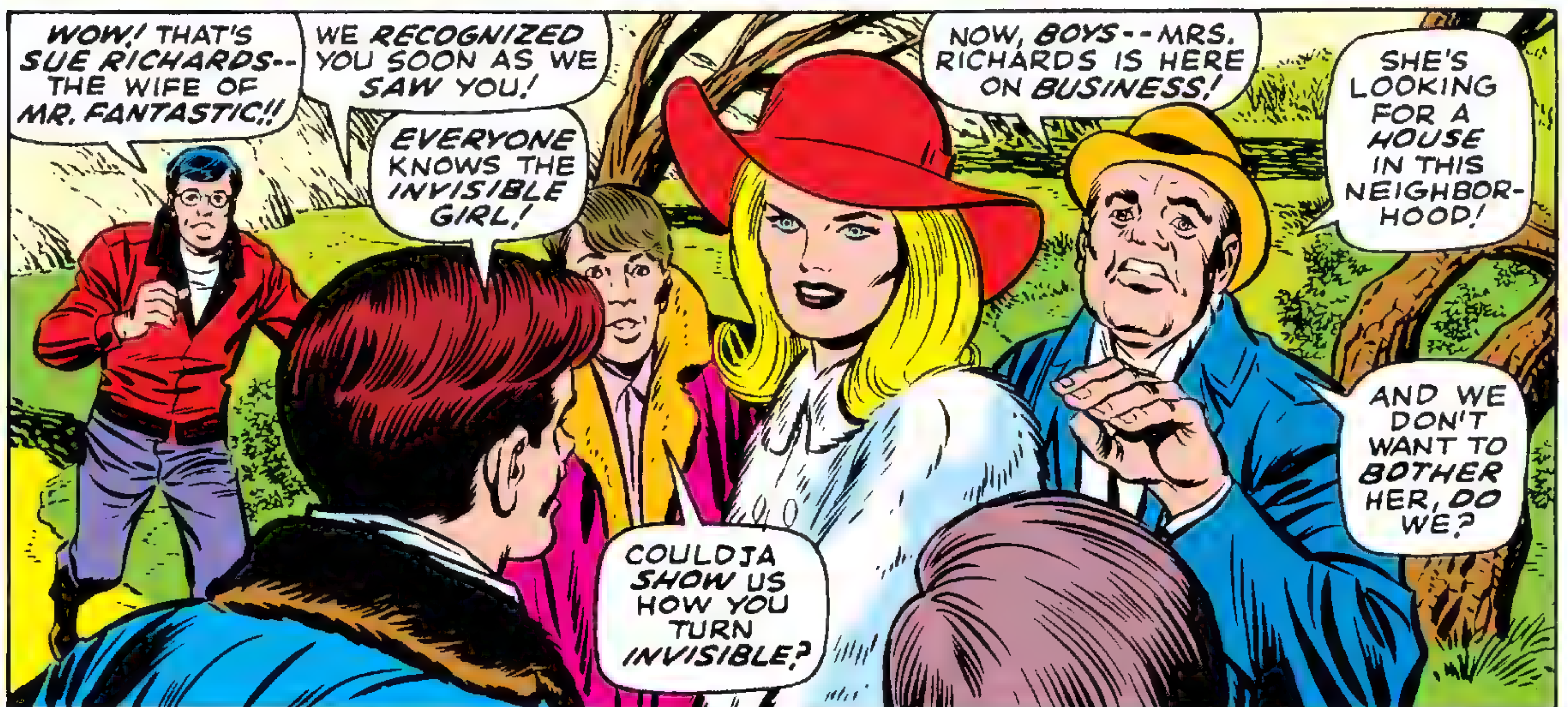
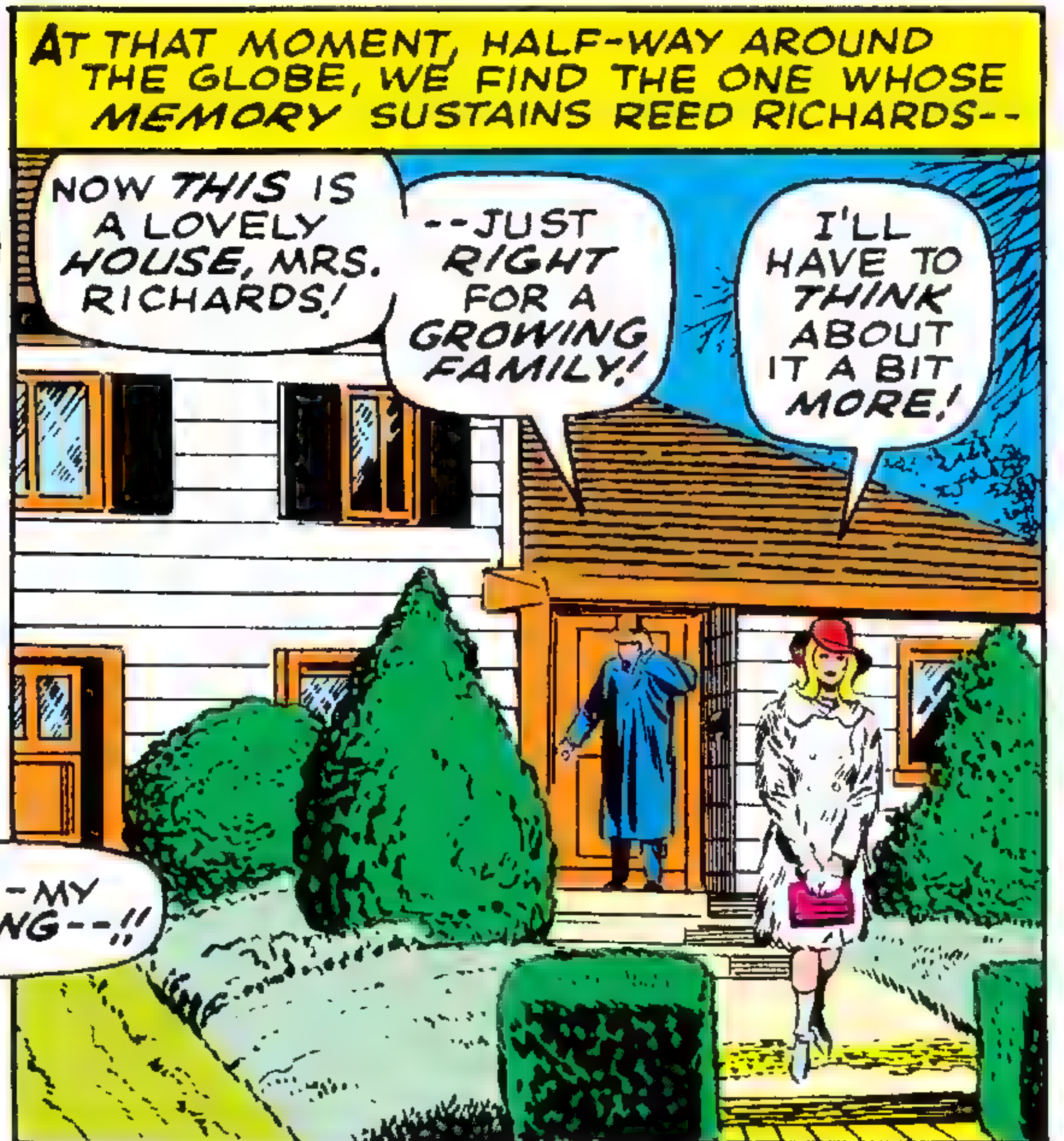
WHAT'S WRONG? I-- CAN'T MUSTER MY THOUGHTS!--EVERYTHING'S HAZY-- GROWING DIM--!

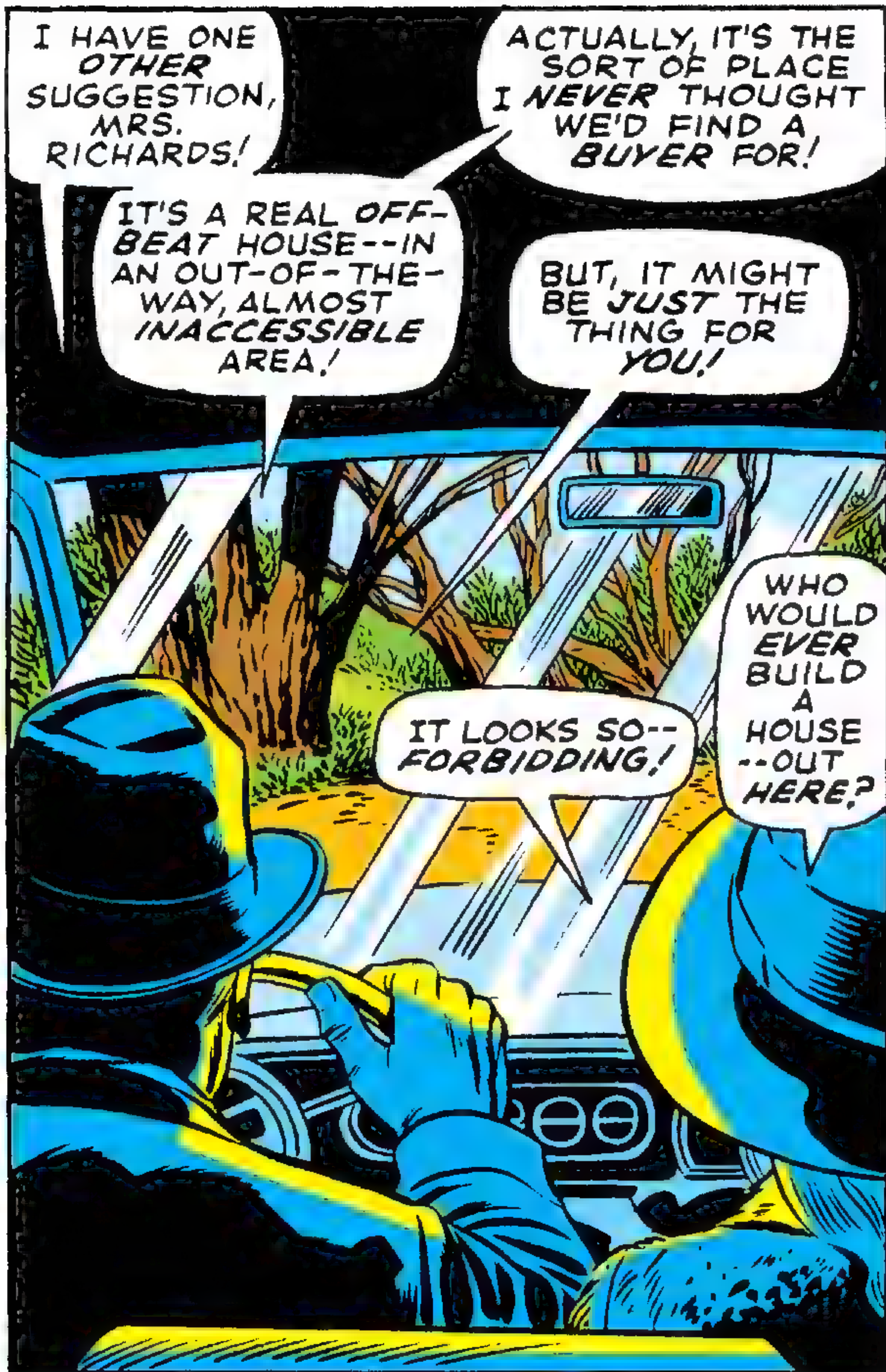


IT IS WELL!

THE SEDATIVES HAVE TAKEN THEIR EFFECT!







I HAVE ONE OTHER SUGGESTION, MRS. RICHARDS!

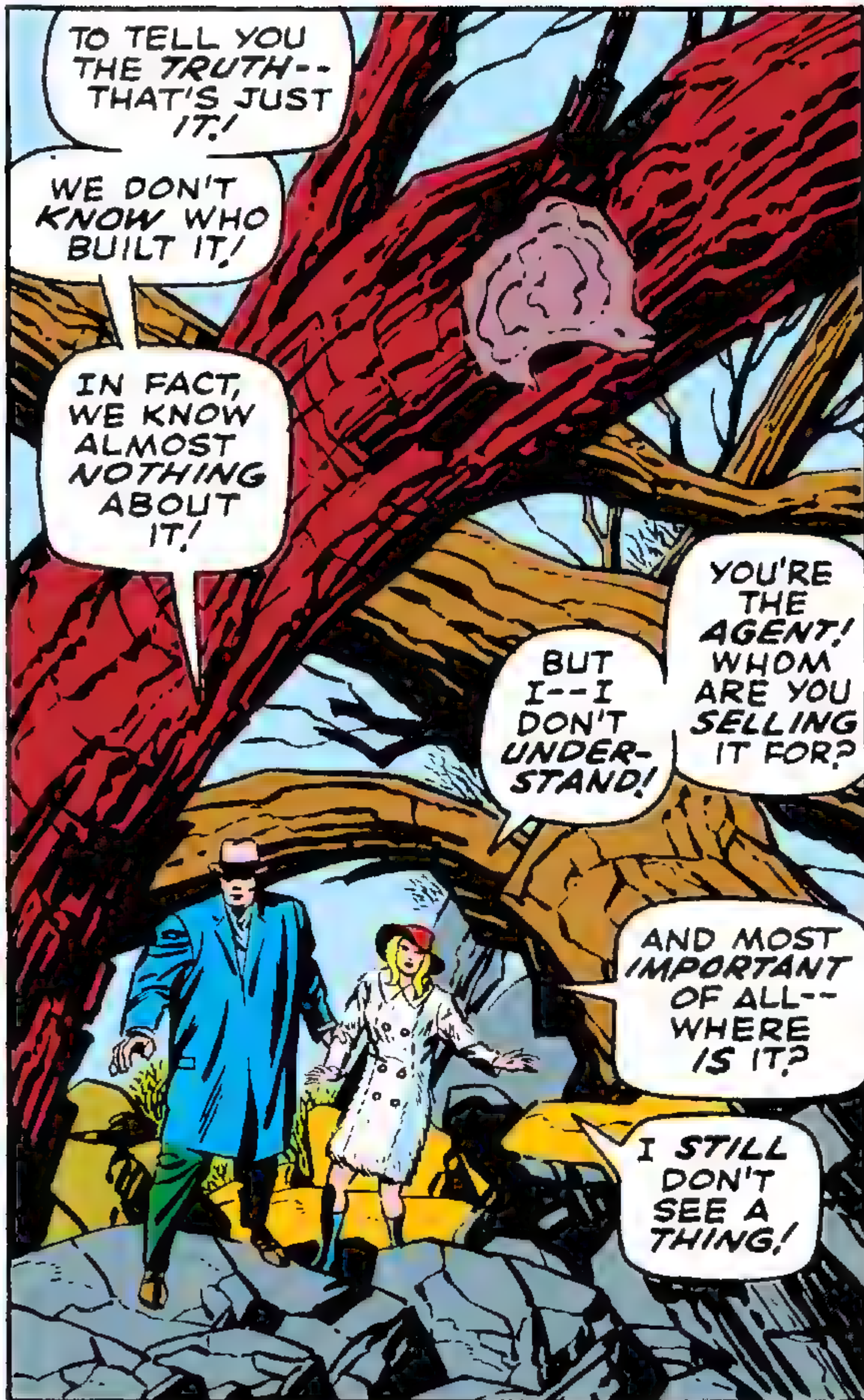
IT'S A REAL OFF-BEAT HOUSE--IN AN OUT-OF-THE-WAY, ALMOST INACCESSIBLE AREA!

ACTUALLY, IT'S THE SORT OF PLACE I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D FIND A BUYER FOR!

BUT, IT MIGHT BE JUST THE THING FOR YOU!

IT LOOKS SO--FORBIDDING!

WHO WOULD EVER BUILD A HOUSE--OUT HERE?



TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH-- THAT'S JUST IT!

WE DON'T KNOW WHO BUILT IT!

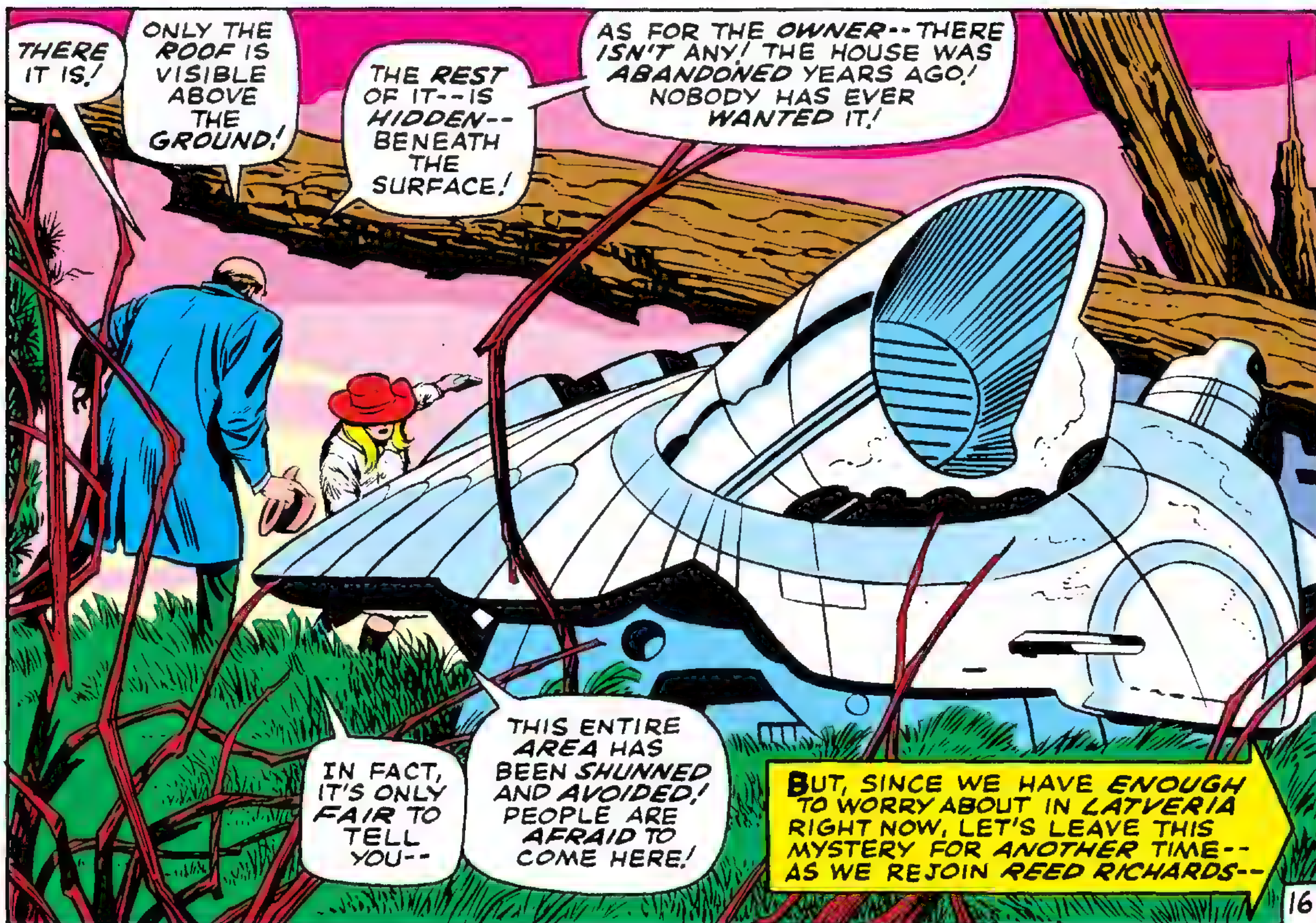
IN FACT, WE KNOW ALMOST NOTHING ABOUT IT!

BUT I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

YOU'RE THE AGENT! WHOM ARE YOU SELLING IT FOR?

AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL-- WHERE IS IT?

I STILL DON'T SEE A THING!



THERE IT IS!

ONLY THE ROOF IS VISIBLE ABOVE THE GROUND!

THE REST OF IT--IS HIDDEN--BENEATH THE SURFACE!

AS FOR THE OWNER--THERE ISN'T ANY! THE HOUSE WAS ABANDONED YEARS AGO! NOBODY HAS EVER WANTED IT!

IN FACT, IT'S ONLY FAIR TO TELL YOU--

THIS ENTIRE AREA HAS BEEN SHUNNED AND AVOIDED! PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO COME HERE!

BUT, SINCE WE HAVE ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT IN LATVERIA RIGHT NOW, LET'S LEAVE THIS MYSTERY FOR ANOTHER TIME-- AS WE REJOIN REED RICHARDS--



AND, SPEAKING OF THE WORLD'S MOST DIABOLICAL DO-BADDER--

AT LAST
I CAN BEAR
THE SIGHT
OF--MY
FACE!!

AND SOON--
WHEN I AM
RULER OF ALL
MANKIND--

THE ENTIRE HUMAN
RACE WILL BE FORCED
TO STARE AT THE REAL
DOCTOR DOOM!

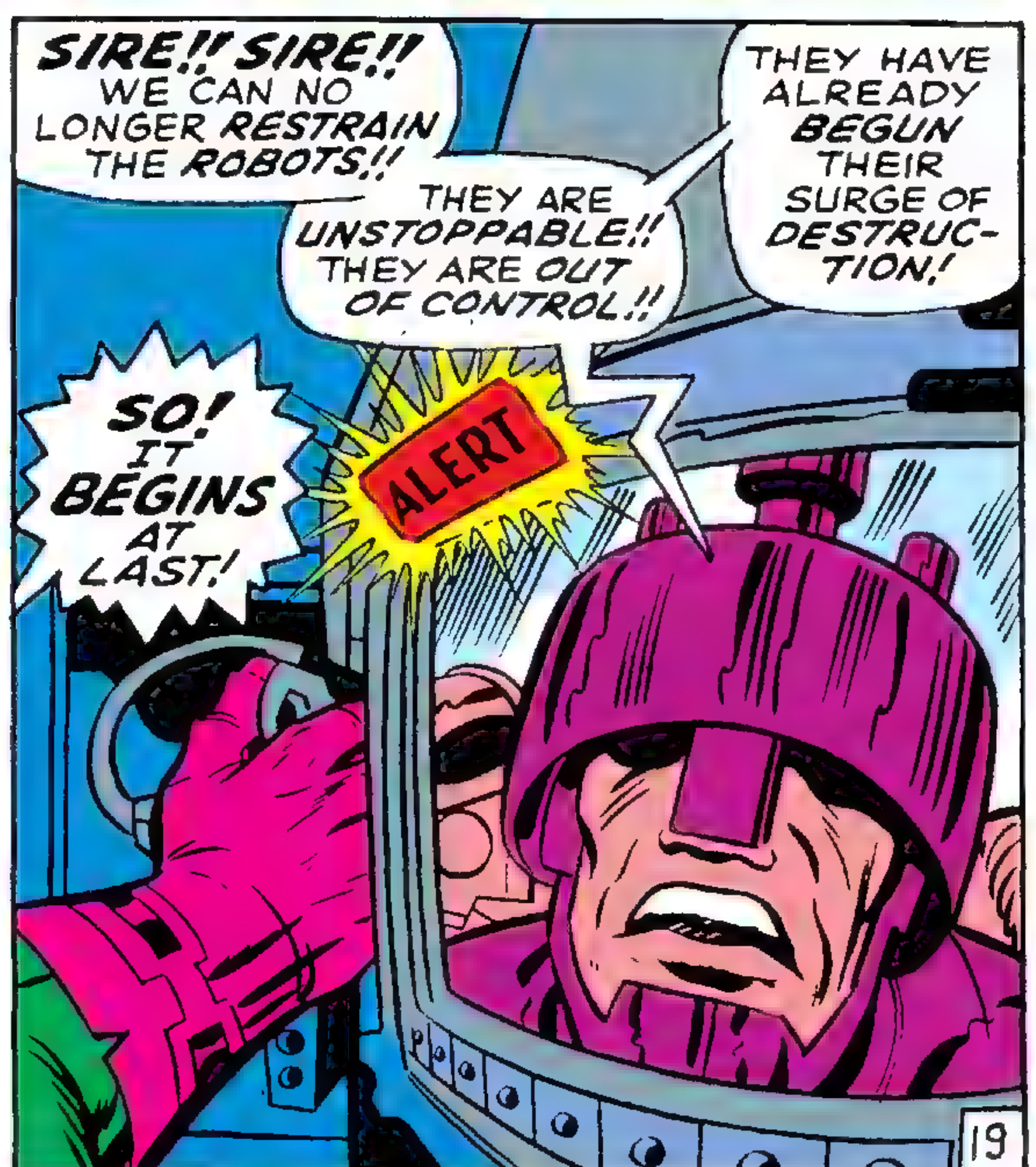
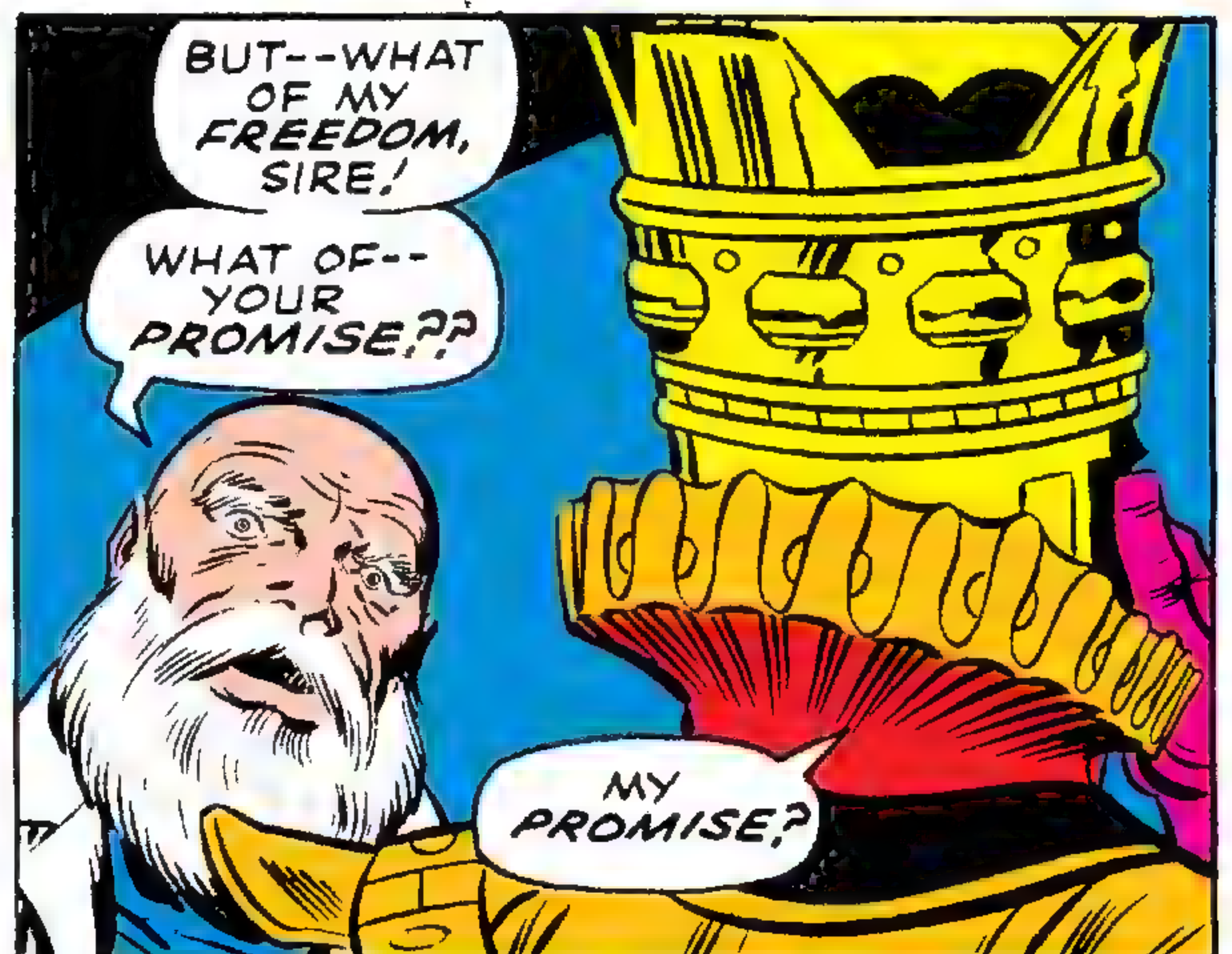
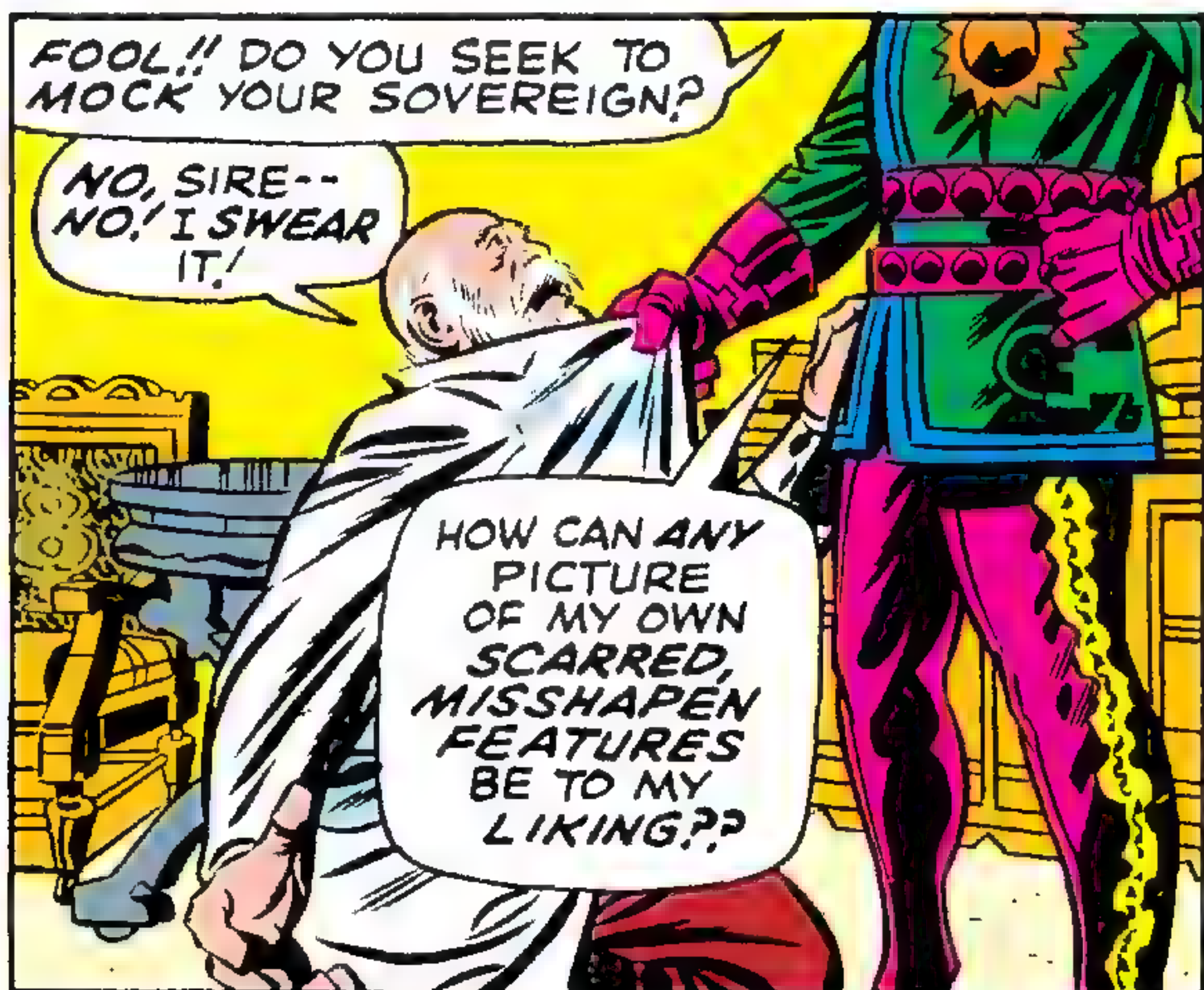
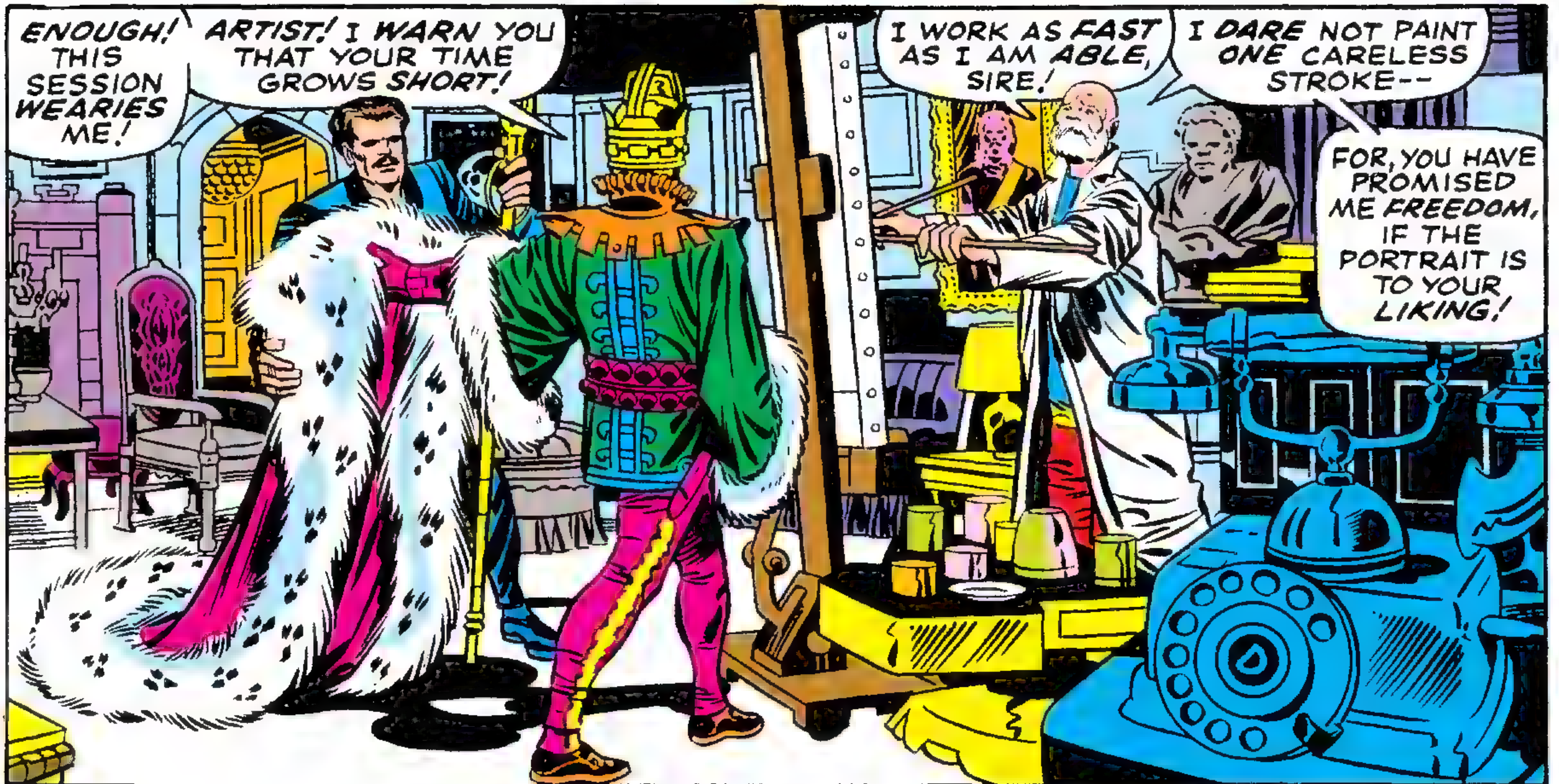
WITHOUT
MY
MASK!

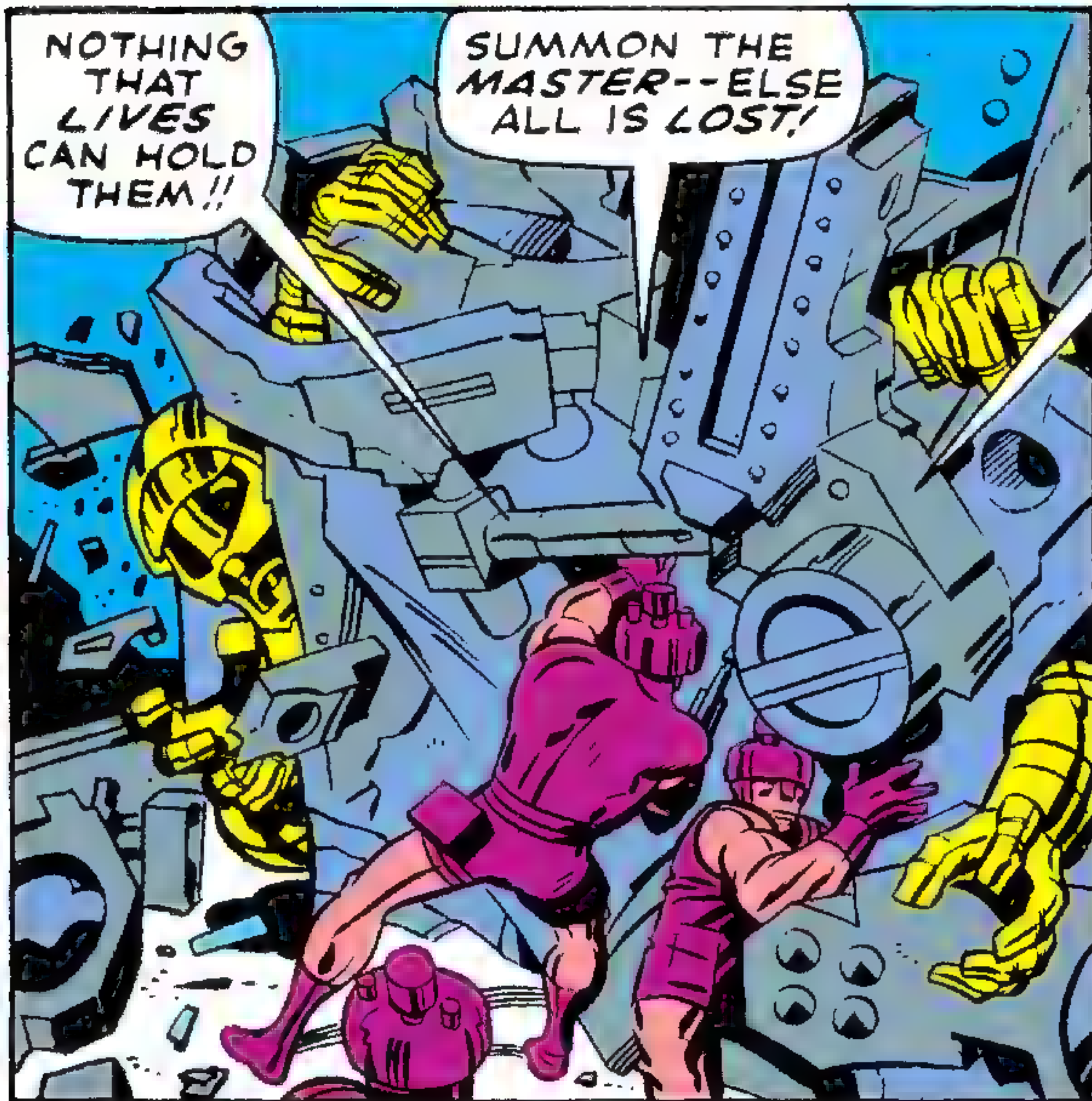
INDEED--BY
ROYAL DECREE--
MY FACE SHALL
SET THE NEW
STANDARDS FOR
MASCULINE
BEAUTY THRUOUT
THE GLOBE!

SIRE!
YOU
MUST
NOT
SPEAK--

OR I
SHALL
LOSE THE
LIKENESS!

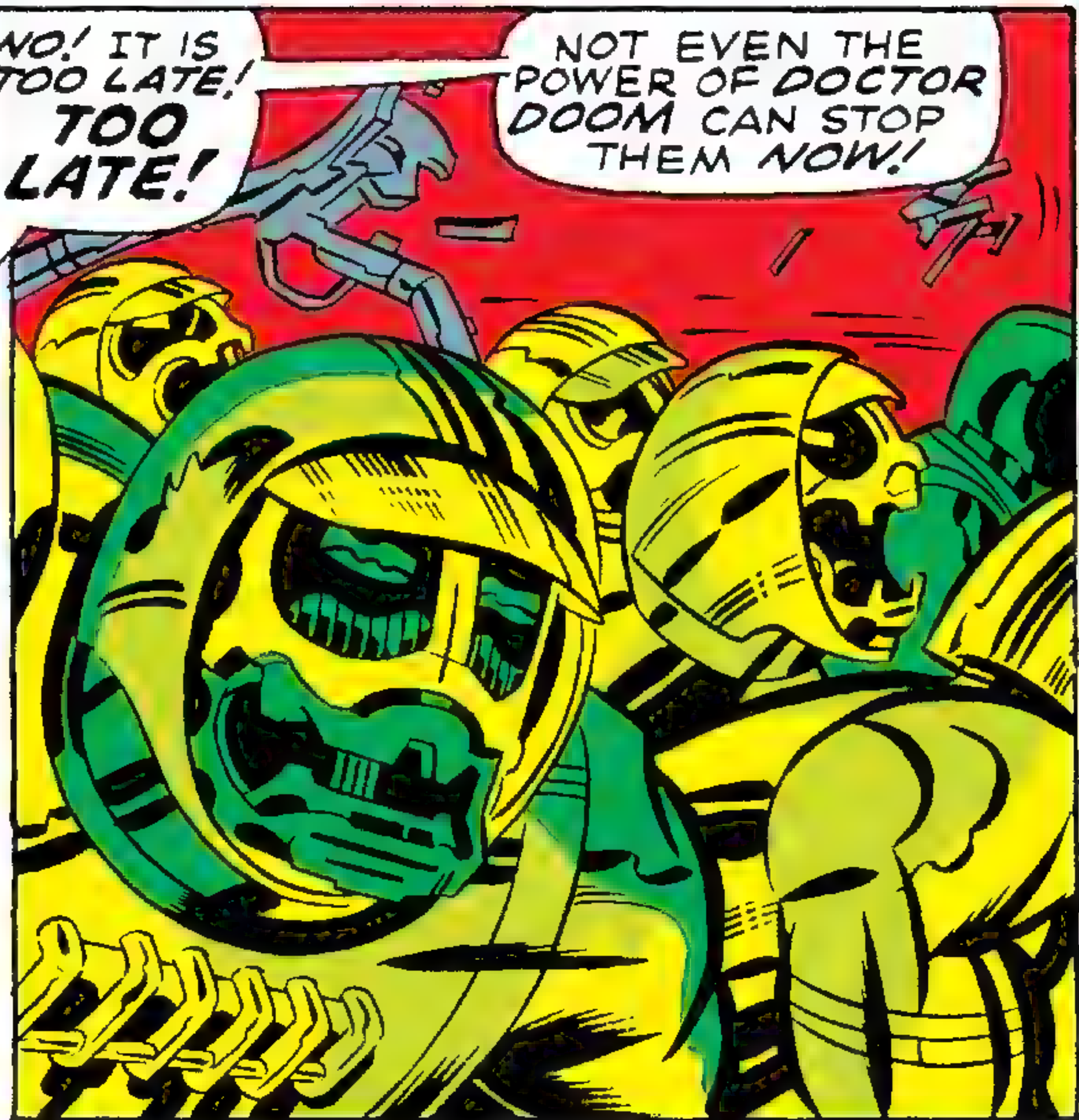






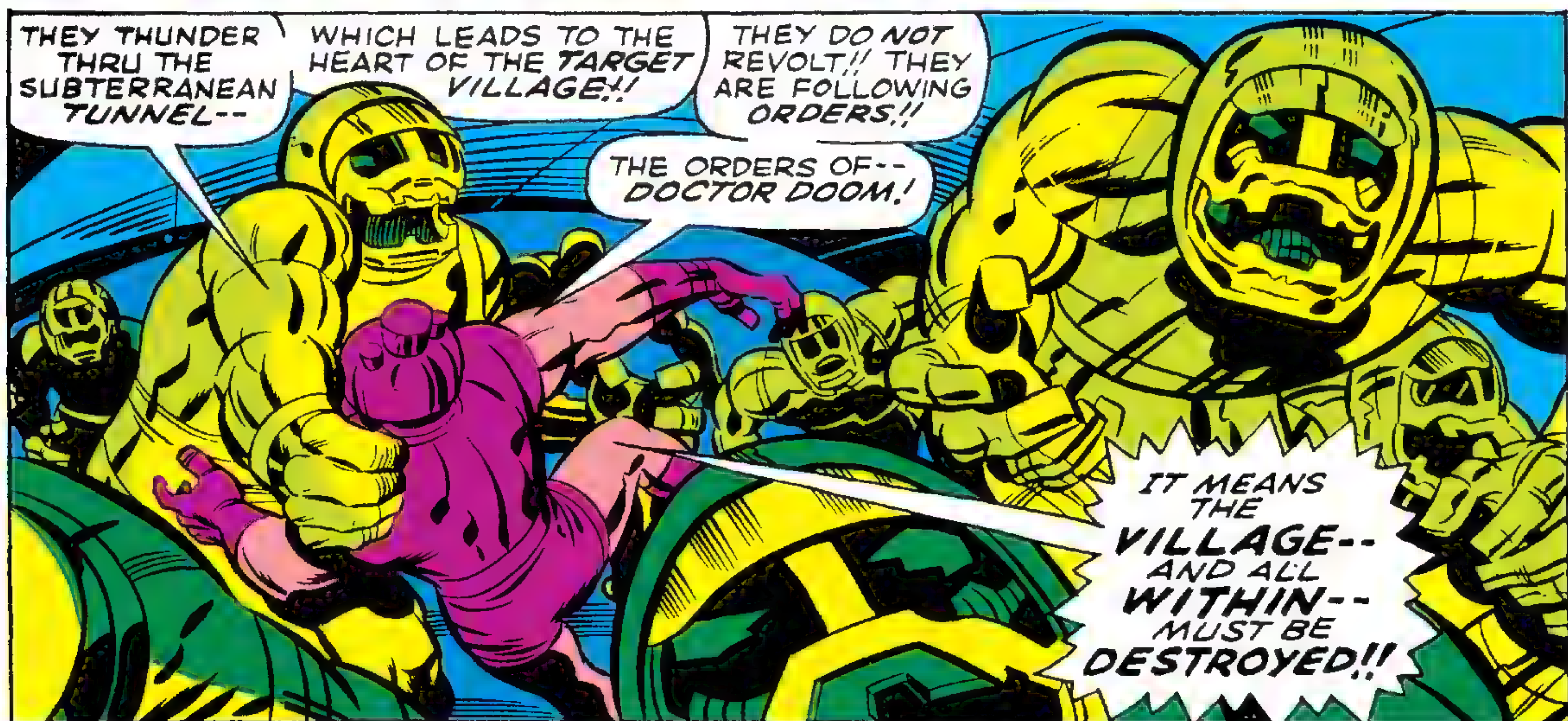
NOTHING THAT LIVES CAN HOLD THEM!!

SUMMON THE MASTER--ELSE ALL IS LOST!



NO! IT IS TOO LATE! TOO LATE!

NOT EVEN THE POWER OF DOCTOR DOOM CAN STOP THEM NOW!



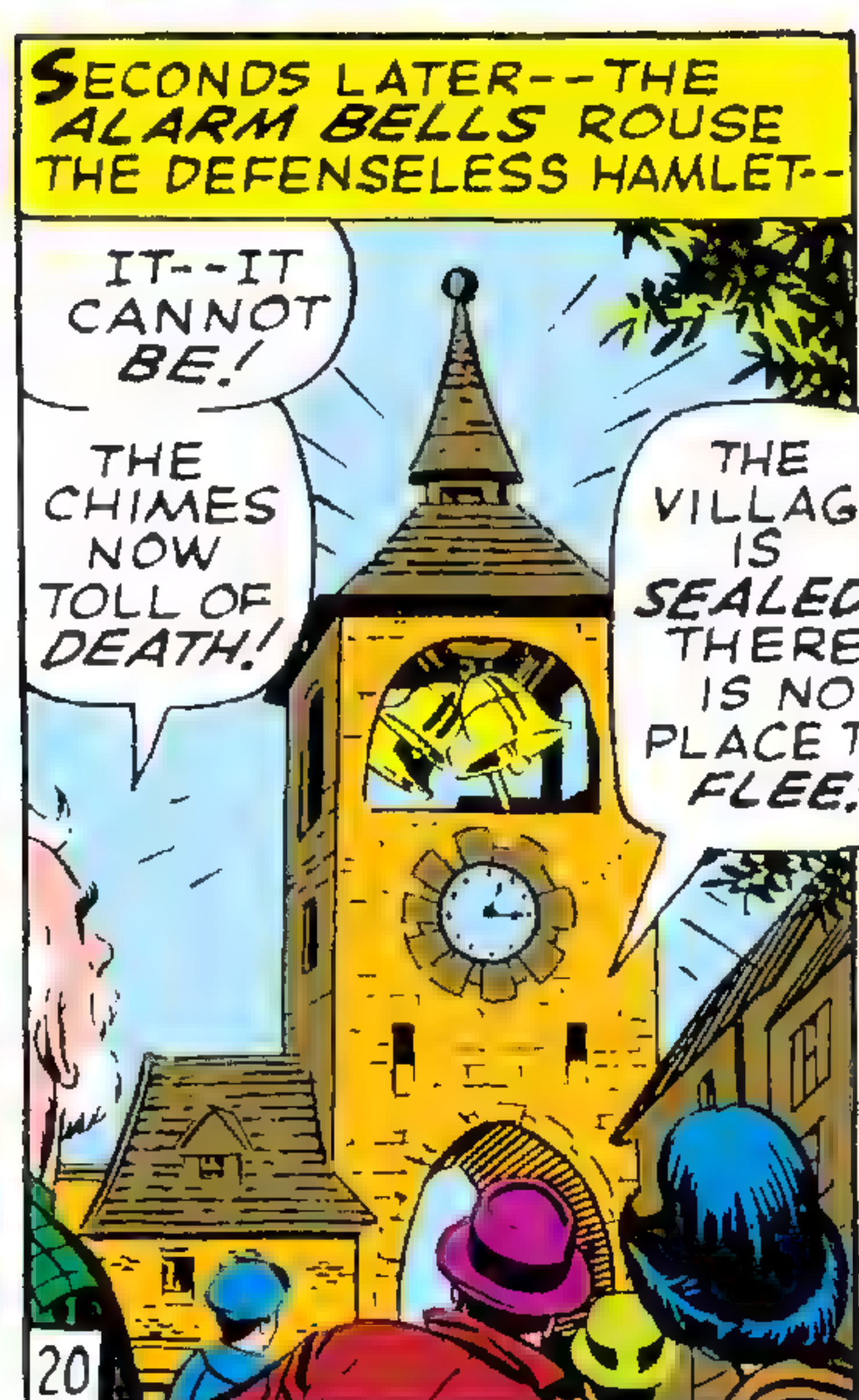
THEY THUNDER THRU THE SUBTERRANEAN TUNNEL--

WHICH LEADS TO THE HEART OF THE TARGET VILLAGE!!

THEY DO NOT REVOLT!! THEY ARE FOLLOWING ORDERS!!

THE ORDERS OF-- DOCTOR DOOM!

IT MEANS THE VILLAGE-- AND ALL WITHIN-- MUST BE DESTROYED!!



SECONDS LATER--THE ALARM BELLS ROUSE THE DEFENSELESS HAMLET--

IT--IT CANNOT BE!

THE CHIMES NOW TOLL OF DEATH!

THE VILLAGE IS SEALED! THERE IS NO PLACE TO FLEE!



I KNEW IT! I KNEW IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME--!!

WHATEVER'S COMING --WE HAVEN'T ANY POWERS LEFT--TO FIGHT IT!

BUT WHAT-- CAN IT BE??

IT'S THE ROBOT ARMY OF DR. DOOM--!!



--ABOUT TO LAUNCH ITS FIRST ATTACK!!

NEXT:

VICTIMS ALL!

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!



FANTASTIC
FOUR

12¢

IND.

86

MAY

Fantastic FOUR™



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP



THE VICTIMS!

TRAPPED AND POWERLESS, THE FABULOUS **F.F.** FINALLY FIND THEMSELVES AMONG...

THE

VICTIMS!

WOTTA
REVOLTIN'
DEVELOP-
MENT!

DOOM'S
SECRET **ROBOT**
ARMY IS ABOUT
TO **ATTACK**
THE ENTIRE
VILLAGE!

BUT...
WE'VE ALL
LOST OUR
POWERS!

...SO
WE CAN'T
EVEN FIGHT
BACK!

LOOK!
LOOK WHAT'S
COMING!

A PLETHORA OF PERILOUS PAGEANTRY
PANDEMONIOUSLY PRESENTED BY:

STAN **JACK**
(THE MAN) *And* (KING)
LEE **KIRBY**

JOE SINNOTT || SAM ROSEN
EMBELLISHER LETTERER

GET OFF THE
STREETS!!
TAKE
SHELTER!
HIDE! HIDE!

THE ROBOT
ARMY OF
DR. DOOM
IS ON THE
MARCH!

THEY ARE OUT
OF CONTROL!!
NOT EVEN HE CAN
STOP THEM!!

IT IS WE
WHO ARE THEIR
TARGET
VILLAGE!

THERE'S NOT A
MINUTE TO LOSE!

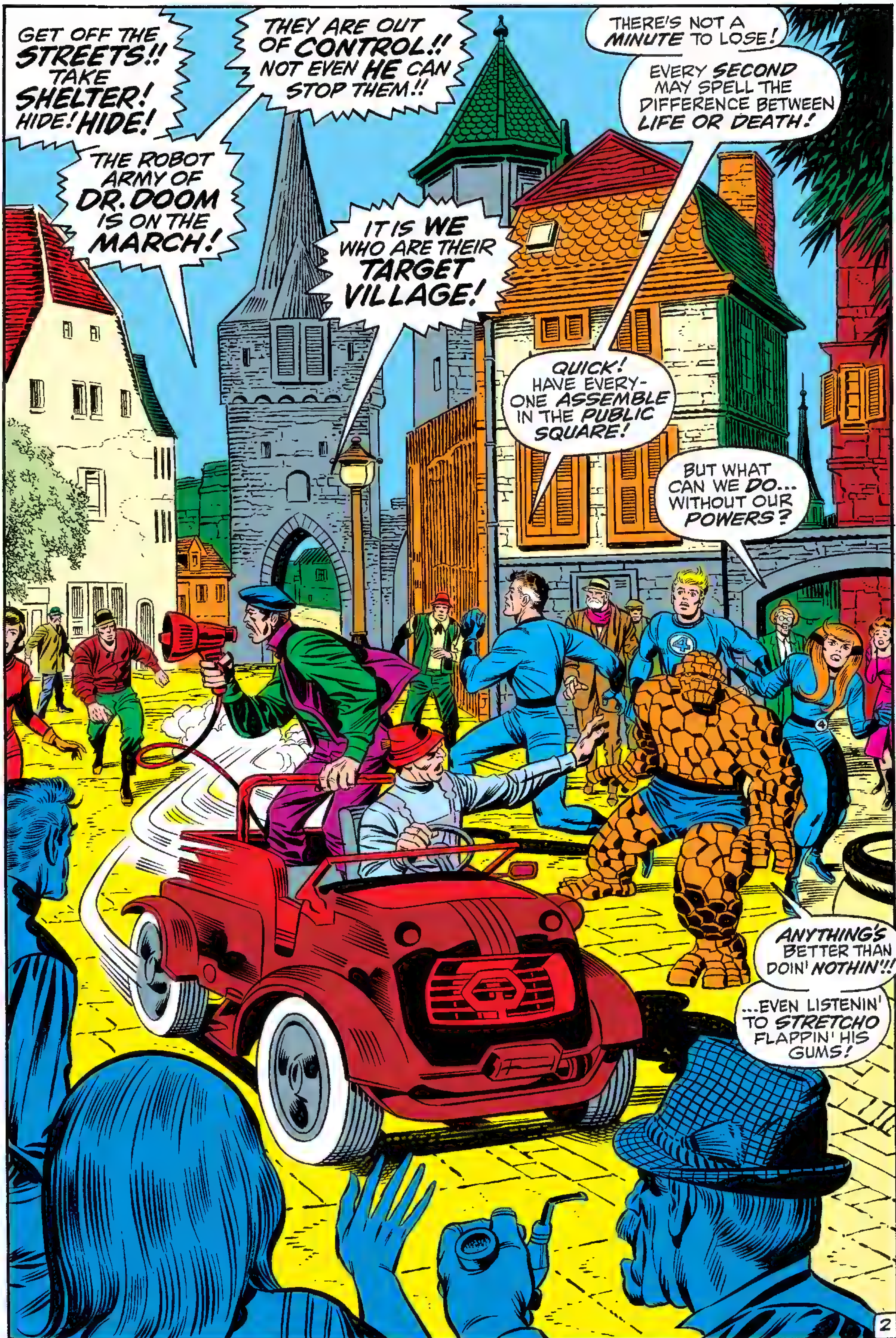
EVERY SECOND
MAY SPELL THE
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
LIFE OR DEATH!

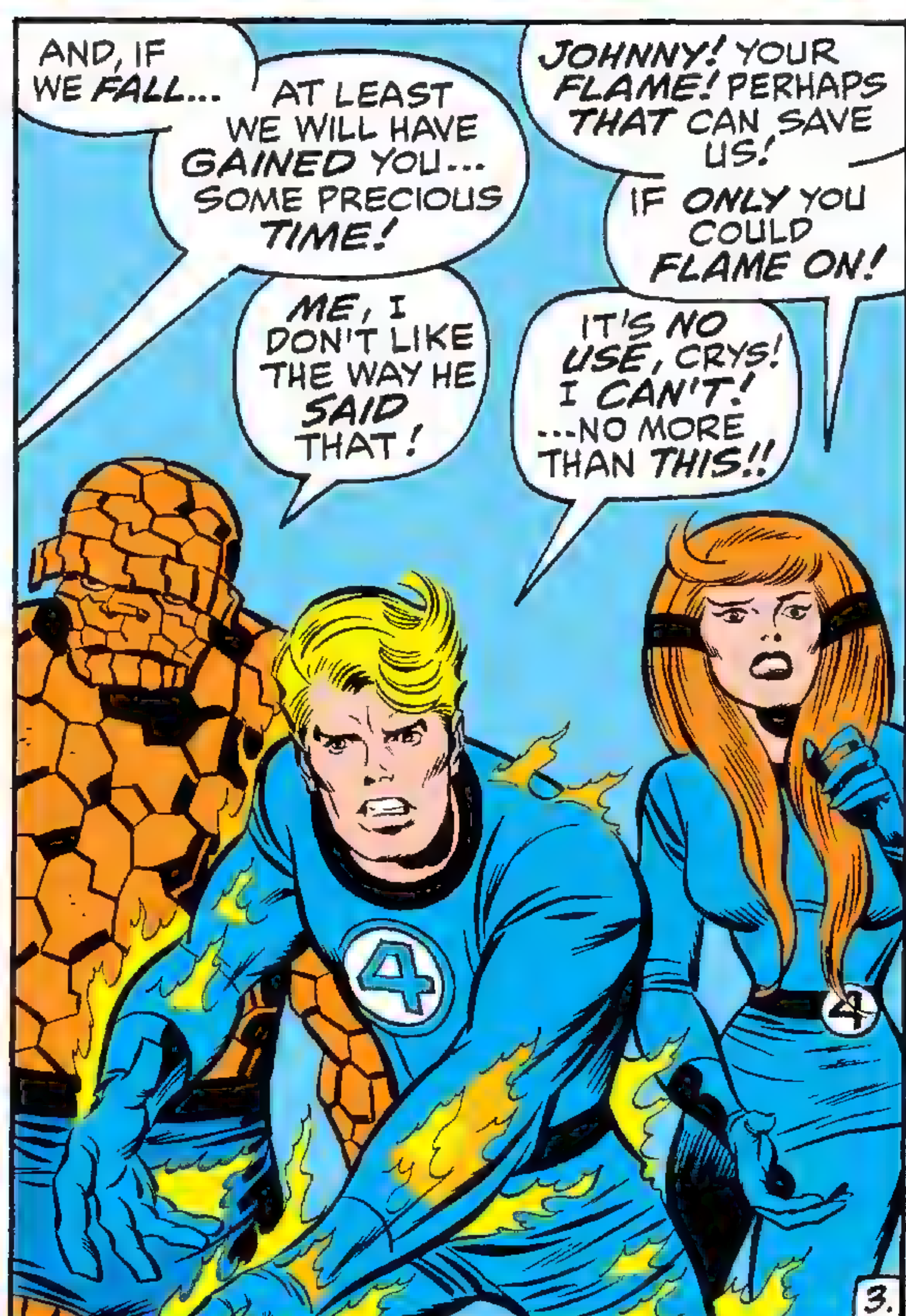
QUICK!
HAVE EVERY-
ONE ASSEMBLE
IN THE PUBLIC
SQUARE!

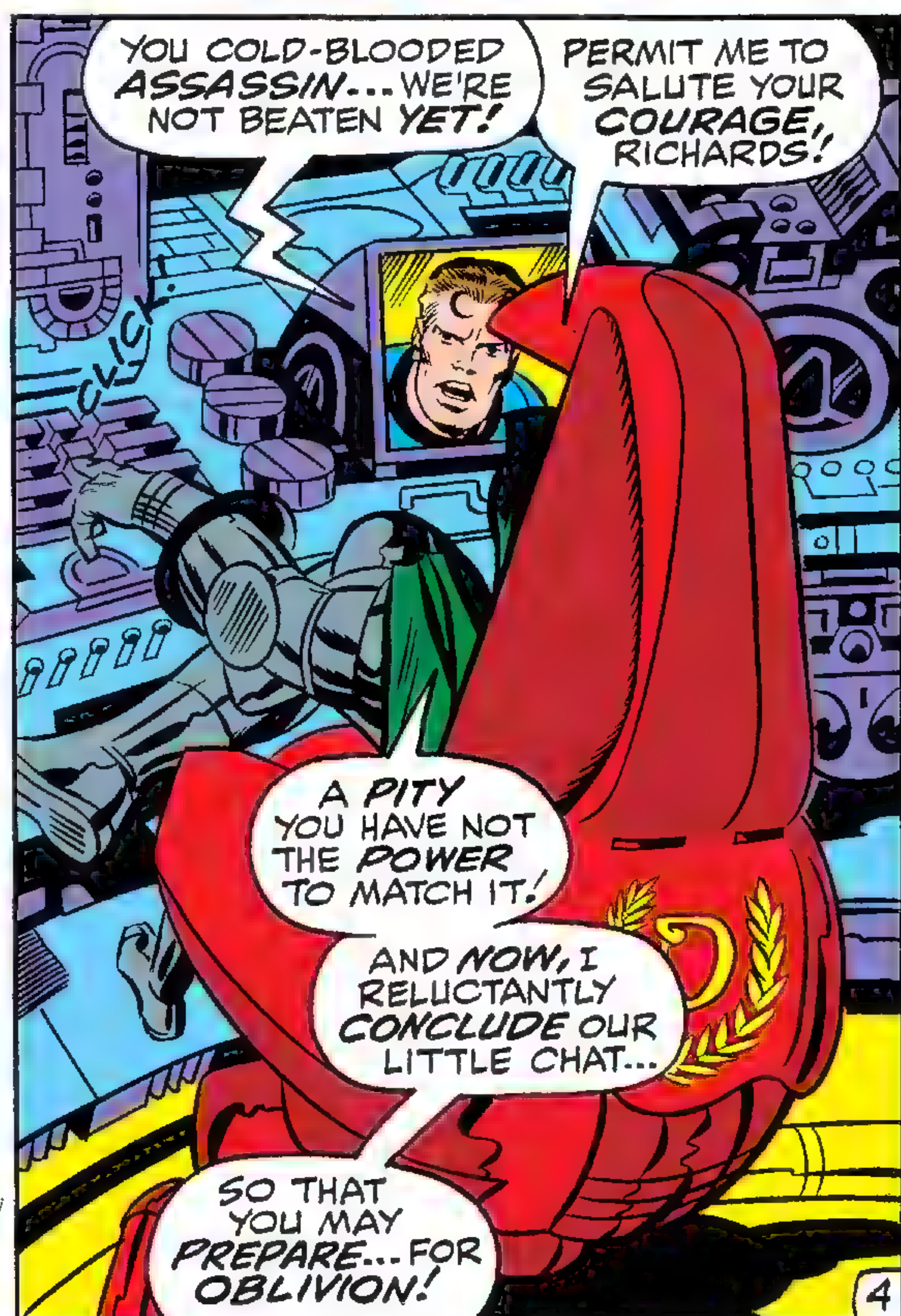
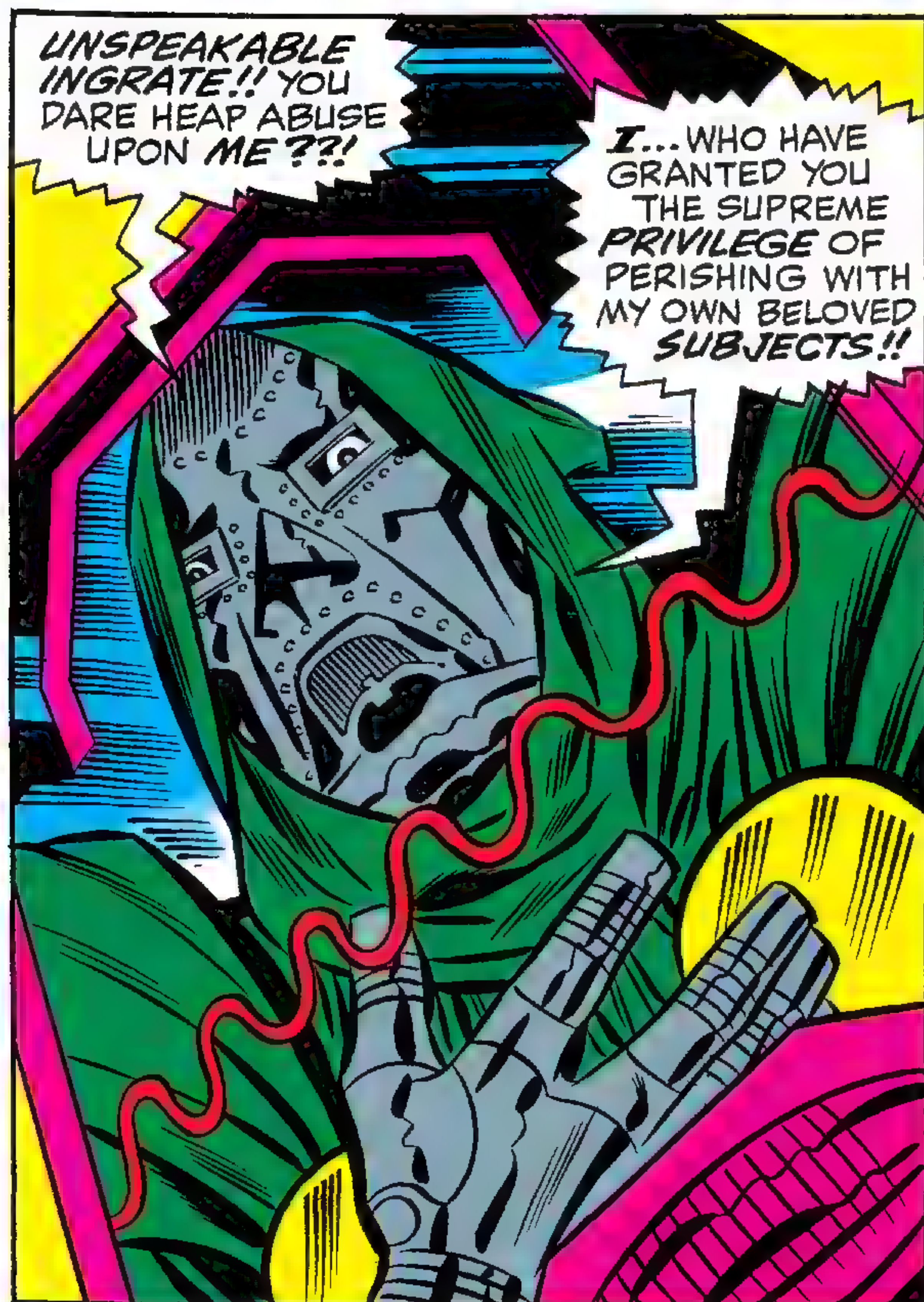
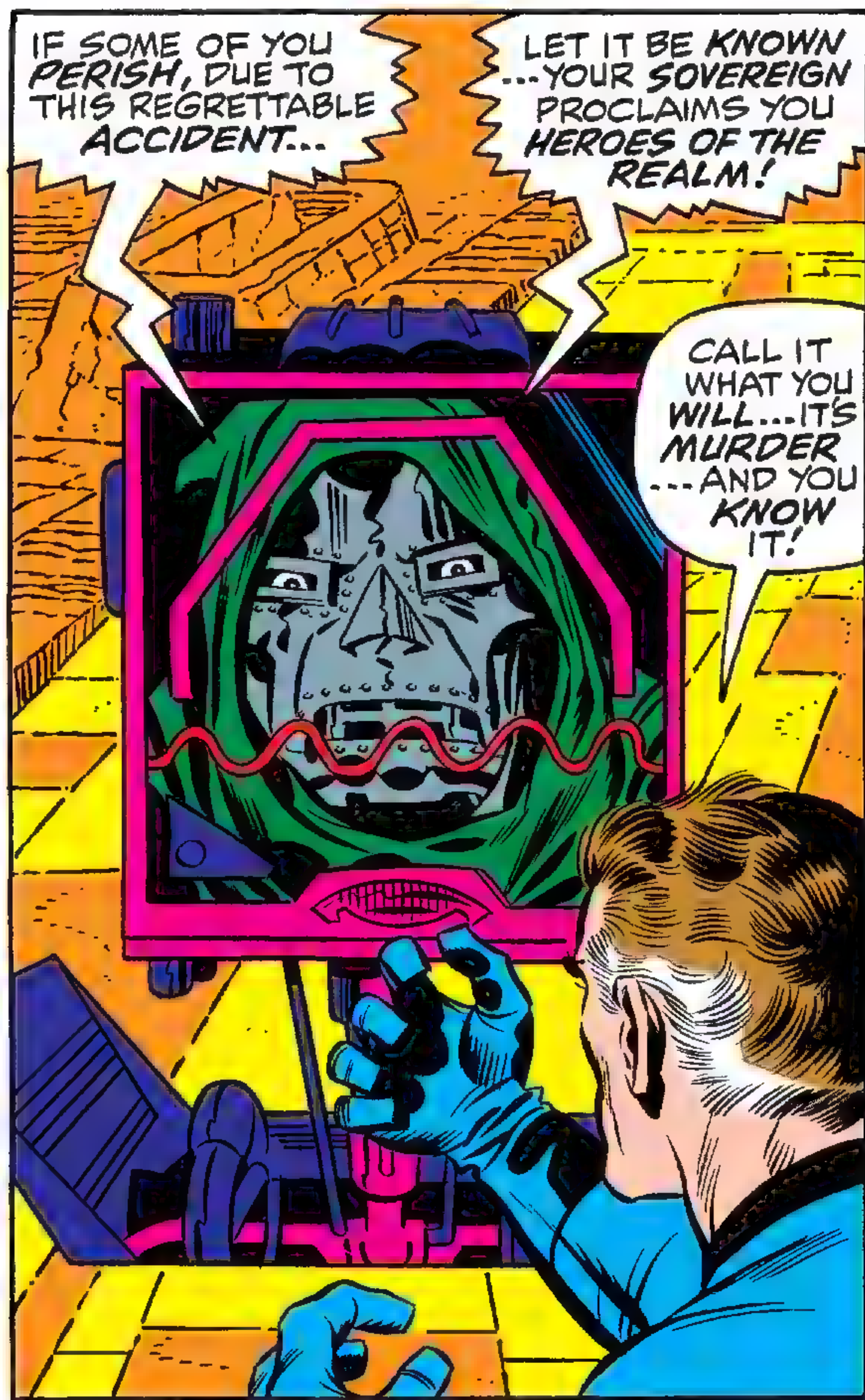
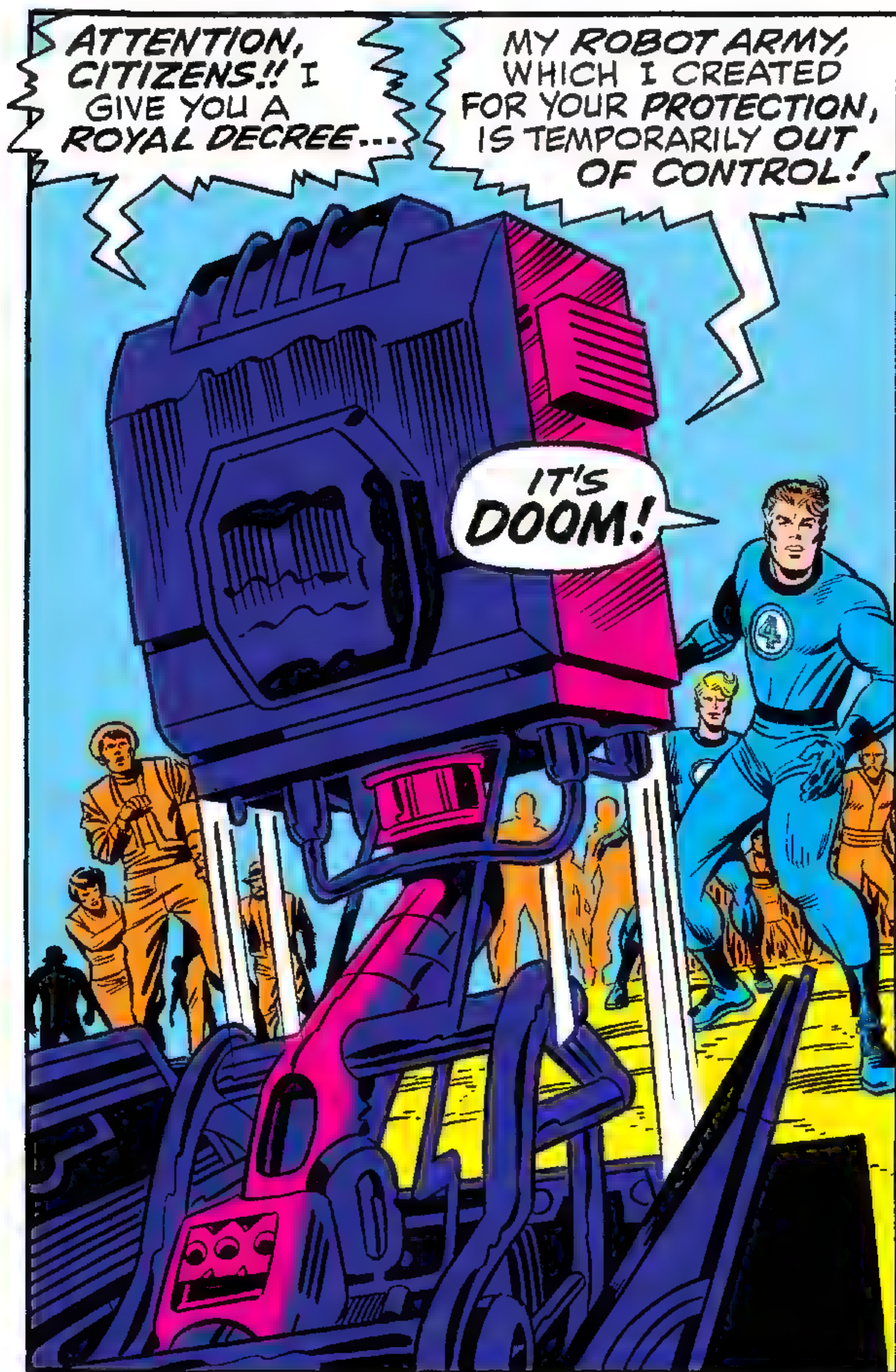
BUT WHAT
CAN WE DO...
WITHOUT OUR
POWERS?

ANYTHING'S
BETTER THAN
DOIN' NOTHIN'!!

...EVEN LISTENIN'
TO **STRETCHO**
FLAPPIN' HIS
GUMS!







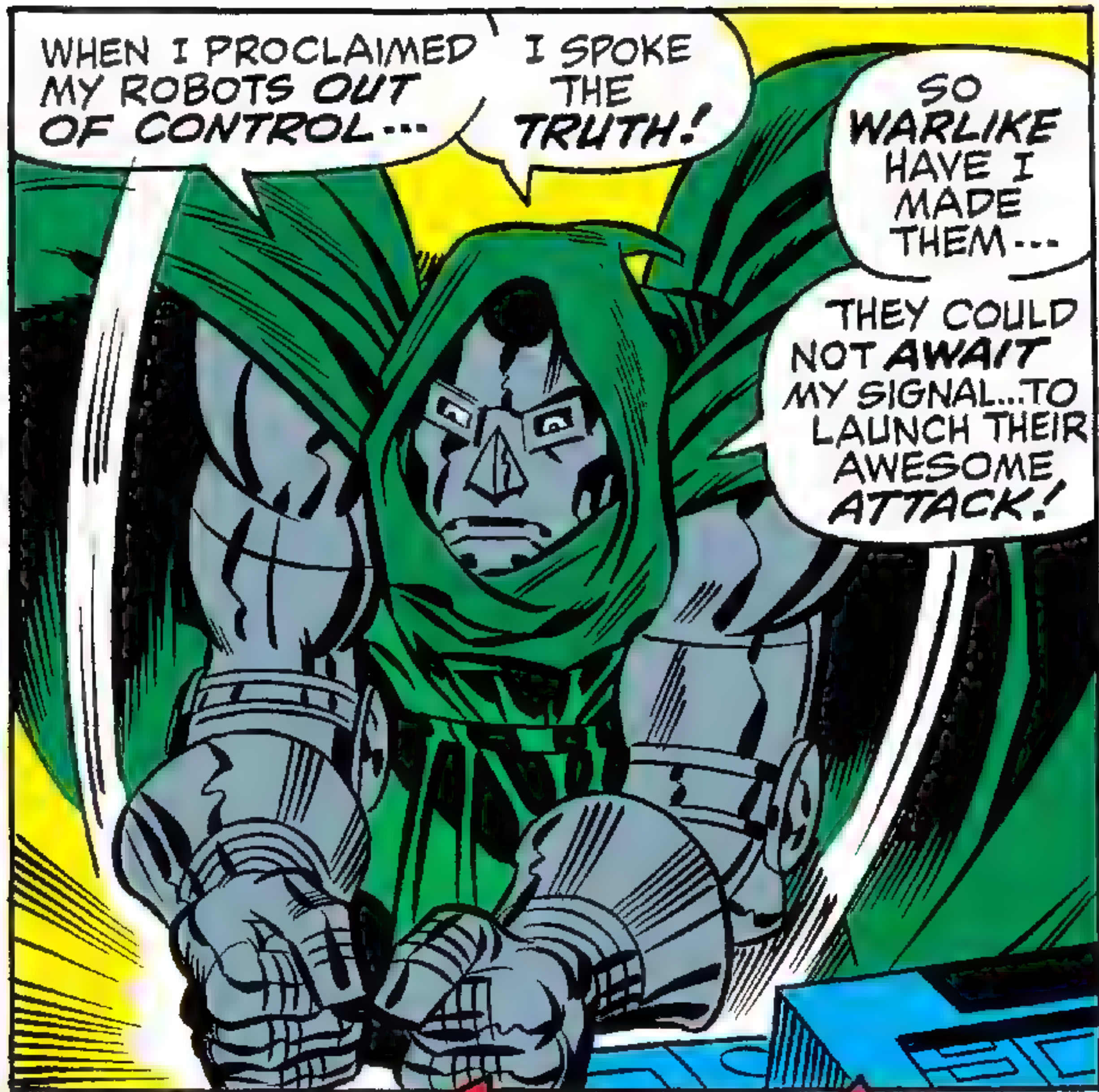
EVEN AT THE *HEIGHT* OF THEIR ACCURSED *POWER*, THEY WERE BARELY A *MATCH* FOR ME!

BUT *NOW*...HAVING RENDERED THEM *HELPLESS* VIA MY *HYPNO-PERSUADER*, THE GAME IS FINALLY *ENDED*... THE *VICTORY* FINALLY *MINE*!

EVEN THOUGH THE *HYPNOTIC EFFECT* SHALL SOON WEAR OFF... BY THEN IT WILL BE *TOO LATE*!

BY *THEN*... THEY'LL BE AT THE *MERCY* OF MY INVINCIBLE, OMNIPURPOSE *ROBOTS*!

BUT, EVEN THE PLAN OF *DR. DOOM* HAS NOT BEEN TOTALLY *FLAWLESS*....!

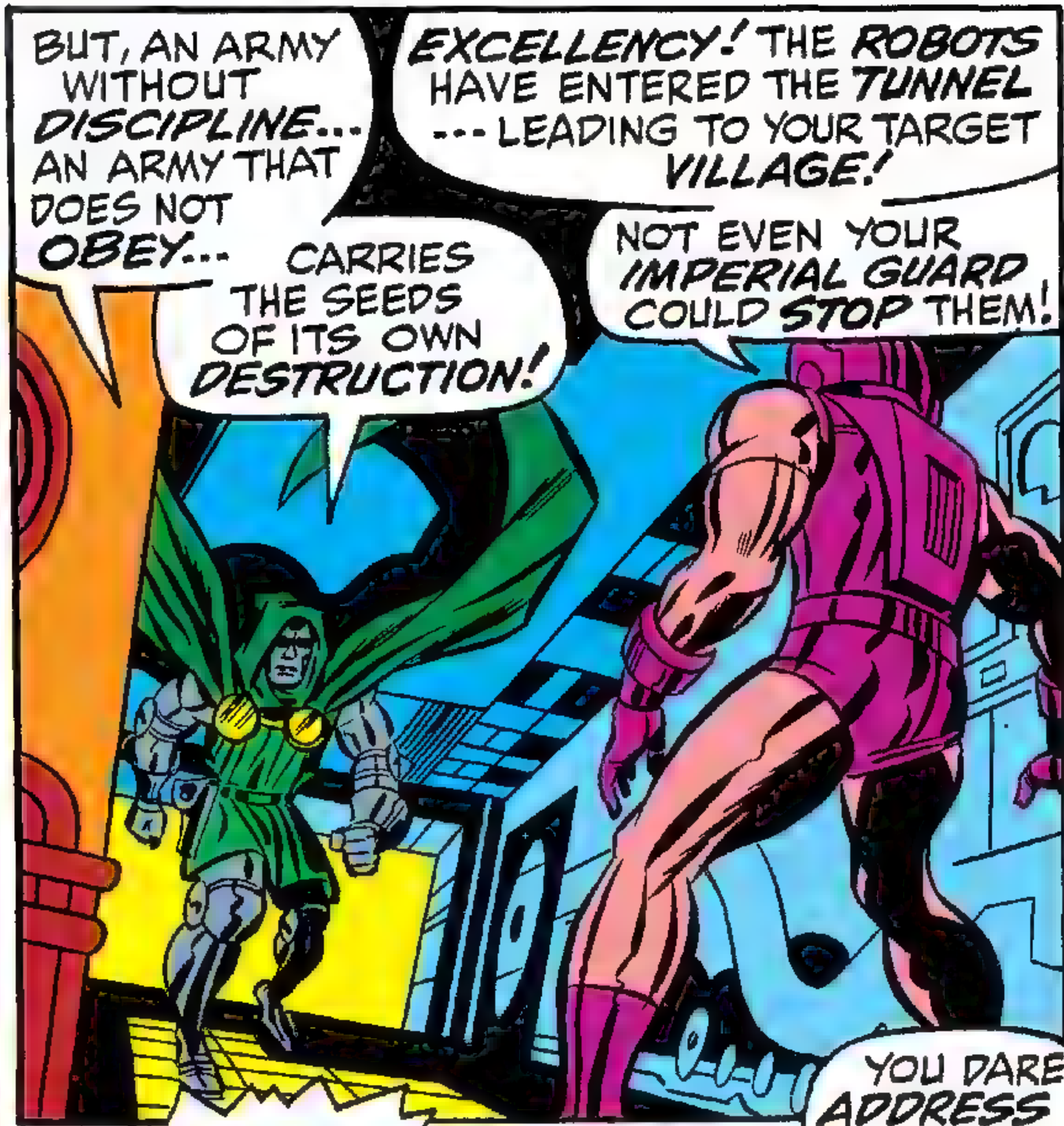


WHEN I PROCLAIMED
MY ROBOTS OUT
OF CONTROL...

I SPOKE
THE
TRUTH!

SO
WARLIKE
HAVE I
MADE
THEM...

THEY COULD
NOT **AWAIT**
MY SIGNAL...TO
LAUNCH THEIR
AWESOME
ATTACK!

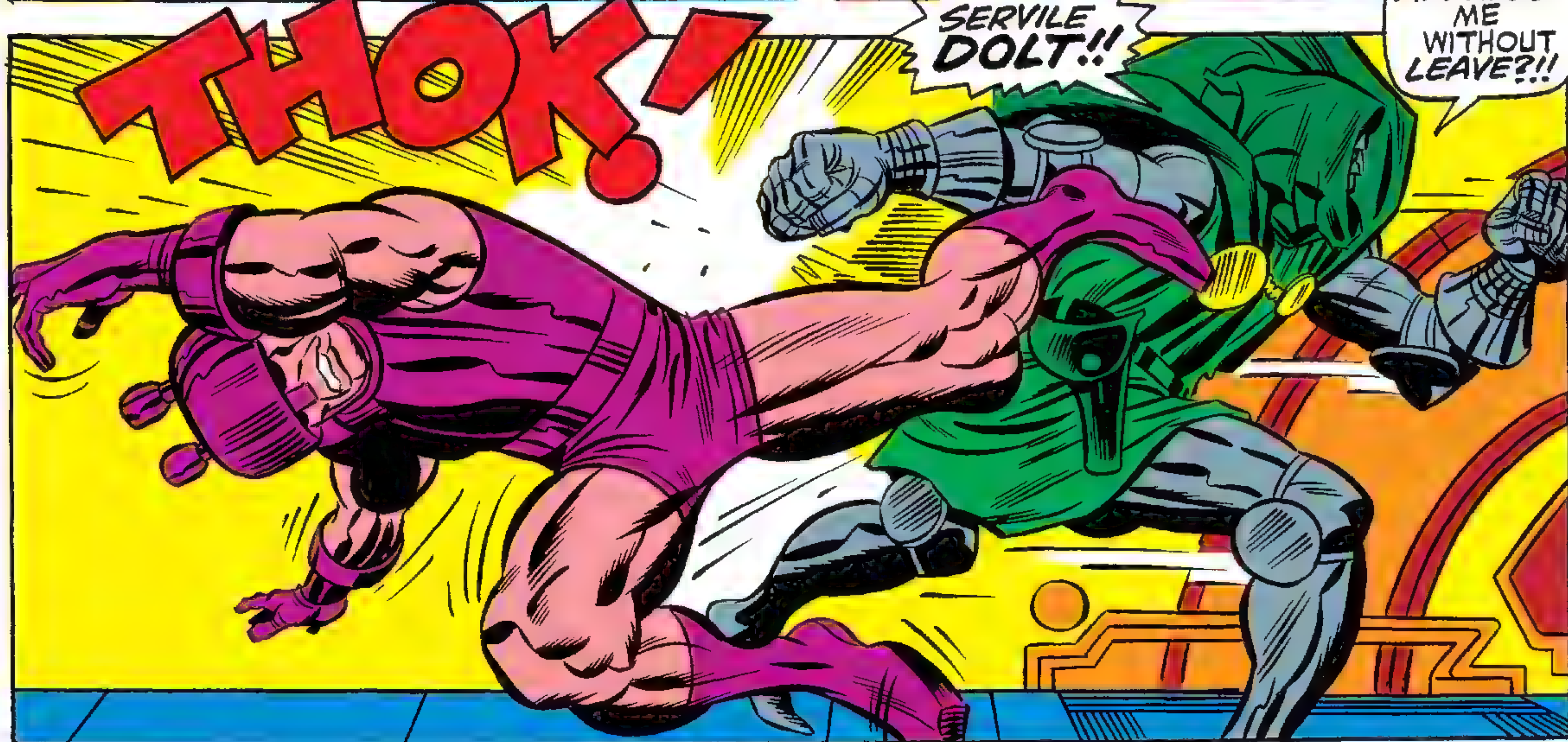


BUT, AN ARMY
WITHOUT
DISCIPLINE...
AN ARMY THAT
DOES NOT
OBEY...

EXCELLENCY! THE ROBOTS
HAVE ENTERED THE **TUNNEL**
... LEADING TO YOUR TARGET
VILLAGE!

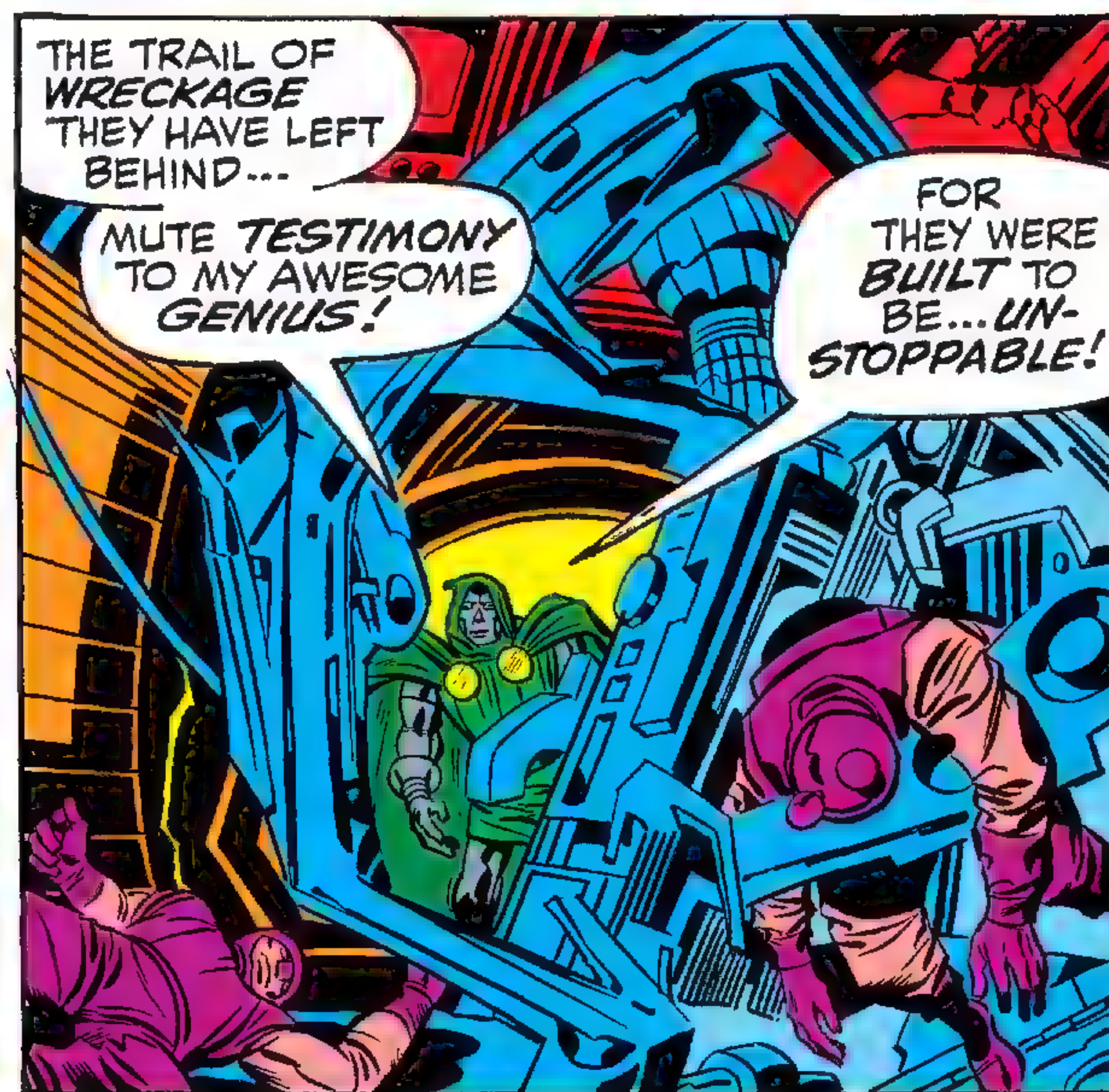
NOT EVEN YOUR
IMPERIAL GUARD
COULD **STOP THEM!**

CARRIES
THE SEEDS
OF ITS OWN
DESTRUCTION!



**SERVILE
DOLT!!**

YOU DARE
ADDRESS
ME
WITHOUT
LEAVE?!!



THE TRAIL OF
WRECKAGE
THEY HAVE LEFT
BEHIND...

MUTE **TESTIMONY**
TO MY AWESOME
GENIUS!

FOR
THEY WERE
BUILT TO
BE... **UN-**
STOPPABLE!



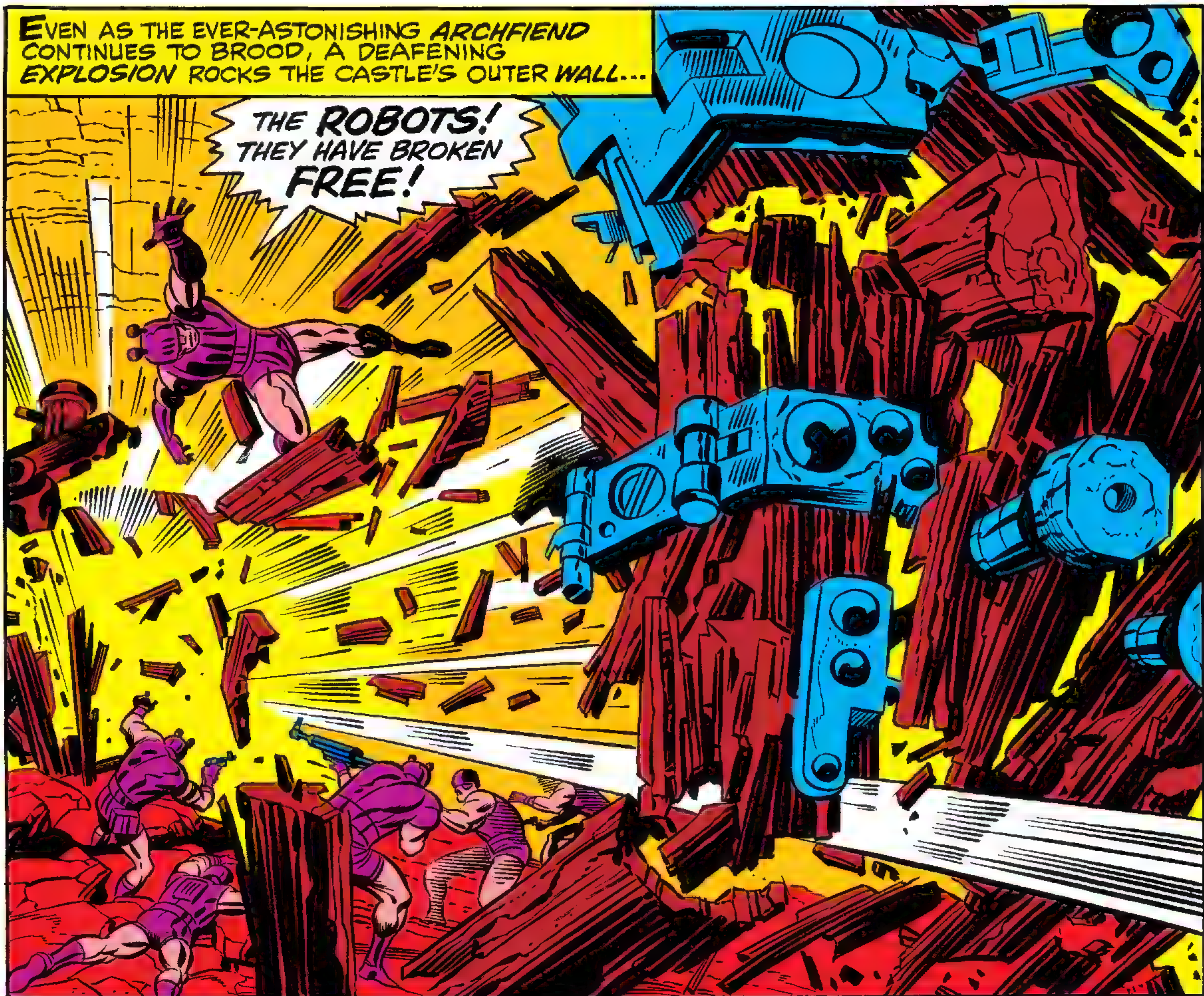
BUT, WHAT IF I
PERFORMED MY
FEAT **TOO WELL?**

WHAT IF THEY
LATER SEEK TO
CRUSH THEIR OWN
CREATOR??!

IT IS **FORTUNATE** I
GAVE THEM ALL A
WEAKNESS... KNOWN
TO NONE BUT **ME!**

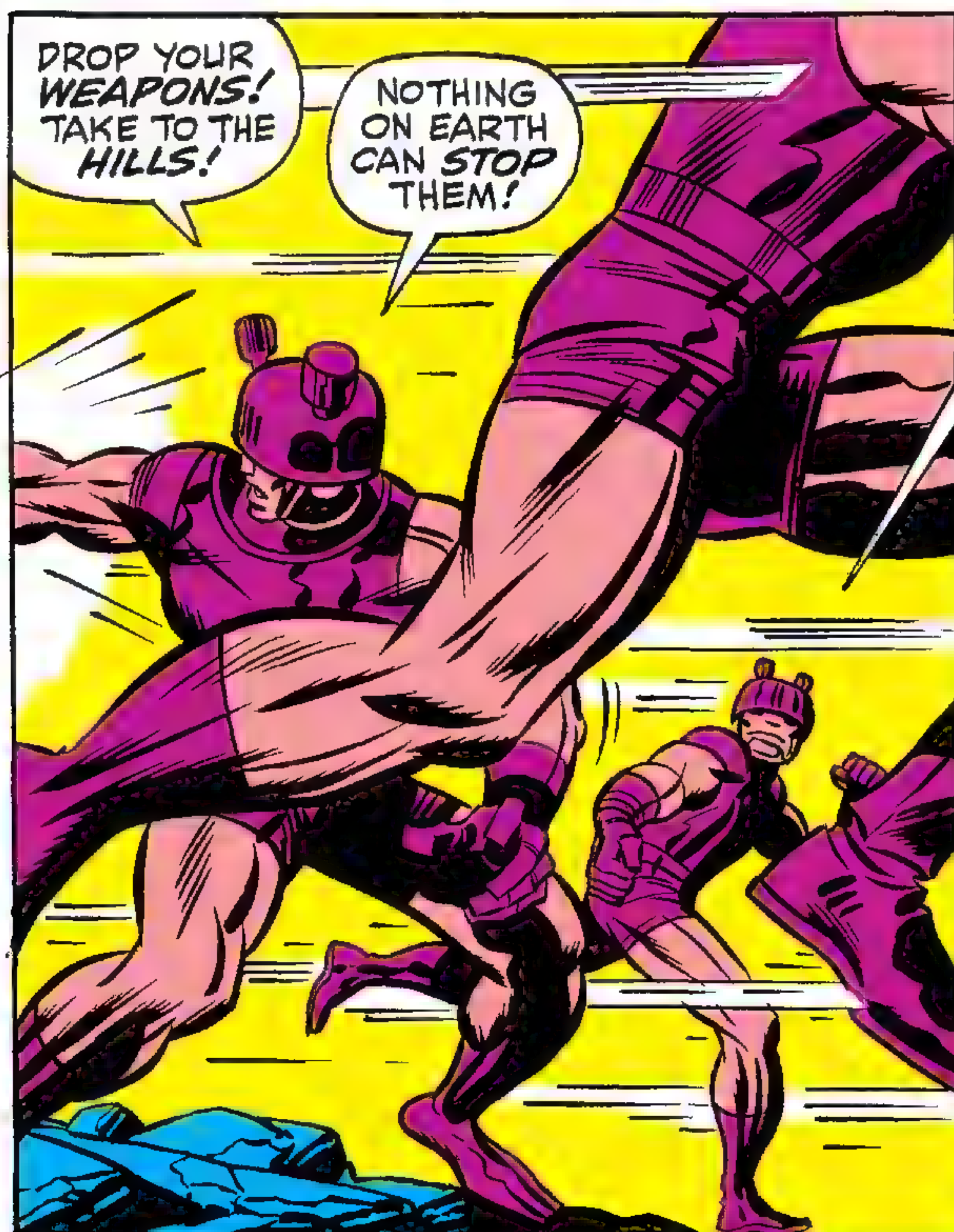
EVEN AS THE EVER-ASTONISHING ARCHFIEND CONTINUES TO BROOD, A DEAFENING EXPLOSION ROCKS THE CASTLE'S OUTER WALL...

THE ROBOTS!
THEY HAVE BROKEN
FREE!



DROP YOUR
WEAPONS!
TAKE TO THE
HILLS!

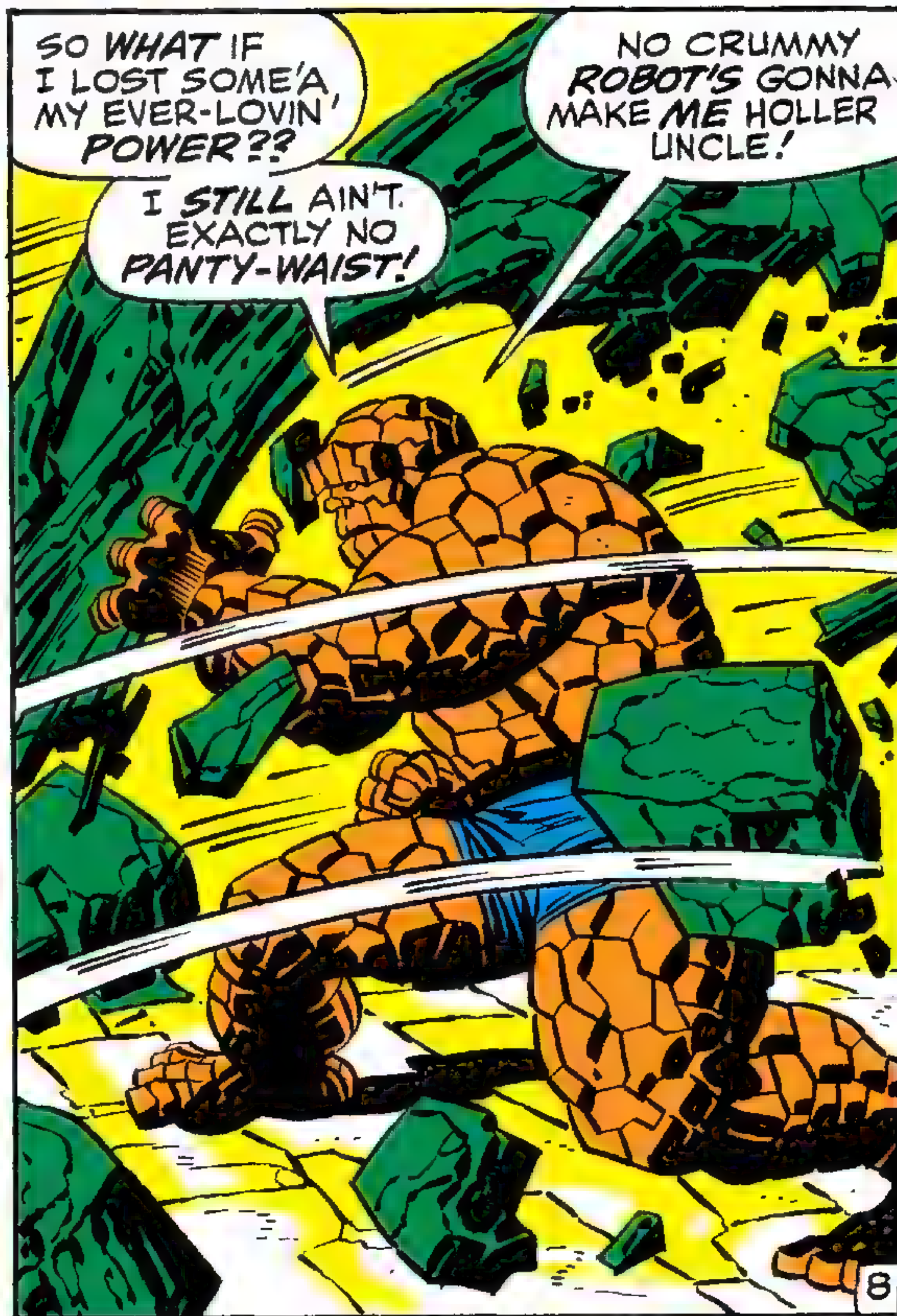
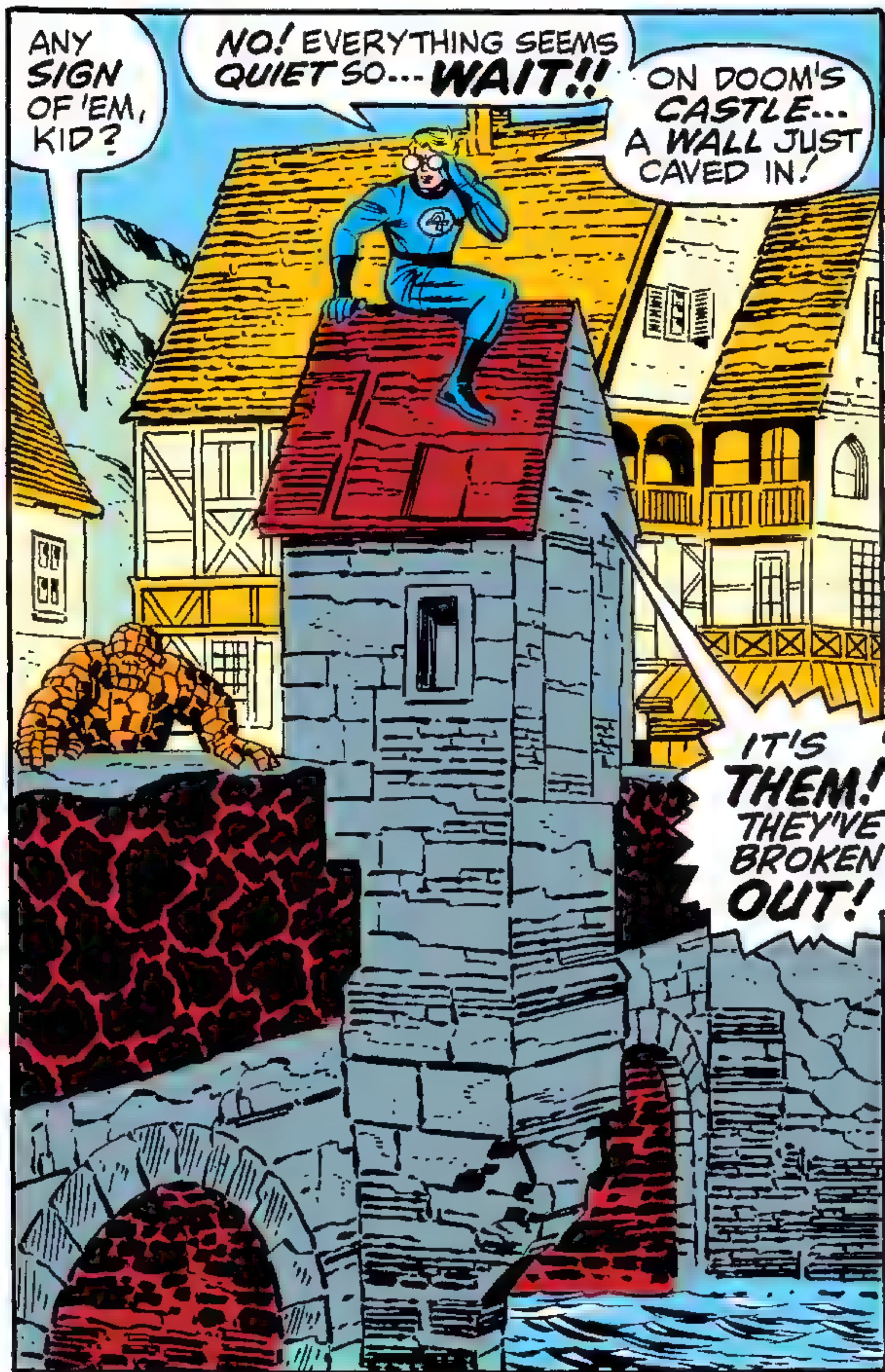
NOTHING
ON EARTH
CAN STOP
THEM!

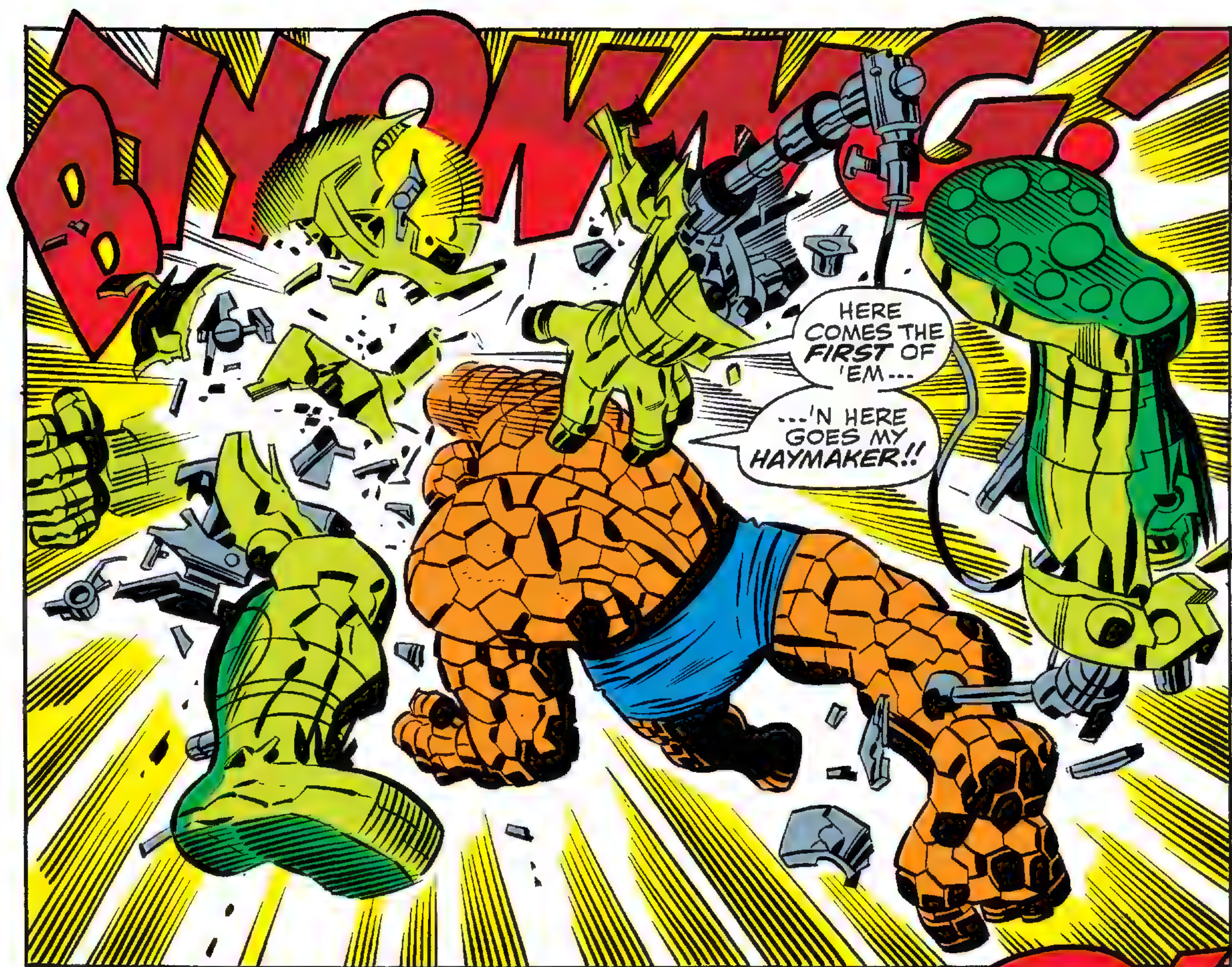


THEIR MEMORY
BANKS CONTAIN
BUT ONE SINGLE
THOUGHT...

DESTROY!
DESTROY!
DESTROY!







HERE COMES THE FIRST OF 'EM...

...N HERE GOES MY HAYMAKER!!



HEY! WADDAYA KNOW??

LOOKS LIKE I GOT A HUNK'A MY BLUE-EYED STRENGTH BACK!!

'N THAT MEANS IT'S GONNA BE A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME!



YUCCHHH! I FERGOT...

EVEN WHEN YA TEAR 'EM APART...

THE BLASTED PIECES KEEP ON ATTACKIN'!!!



CAN'T...
KEEP UP
WITH 'EM!

THEY'RE MOVIN'
TOO FAST... HITTIN'
TOO HARD!

THEY'RE
...ALL OVER
THE PLACE...
TRYIN' TA WEAR
ME OUT!

AN' I
GOT A
FEELIN'...
THEY'RE
DOIN' IT!

BEN! BEN!
HOLD ON,
BIG BUDDY!



GOT
'EM!

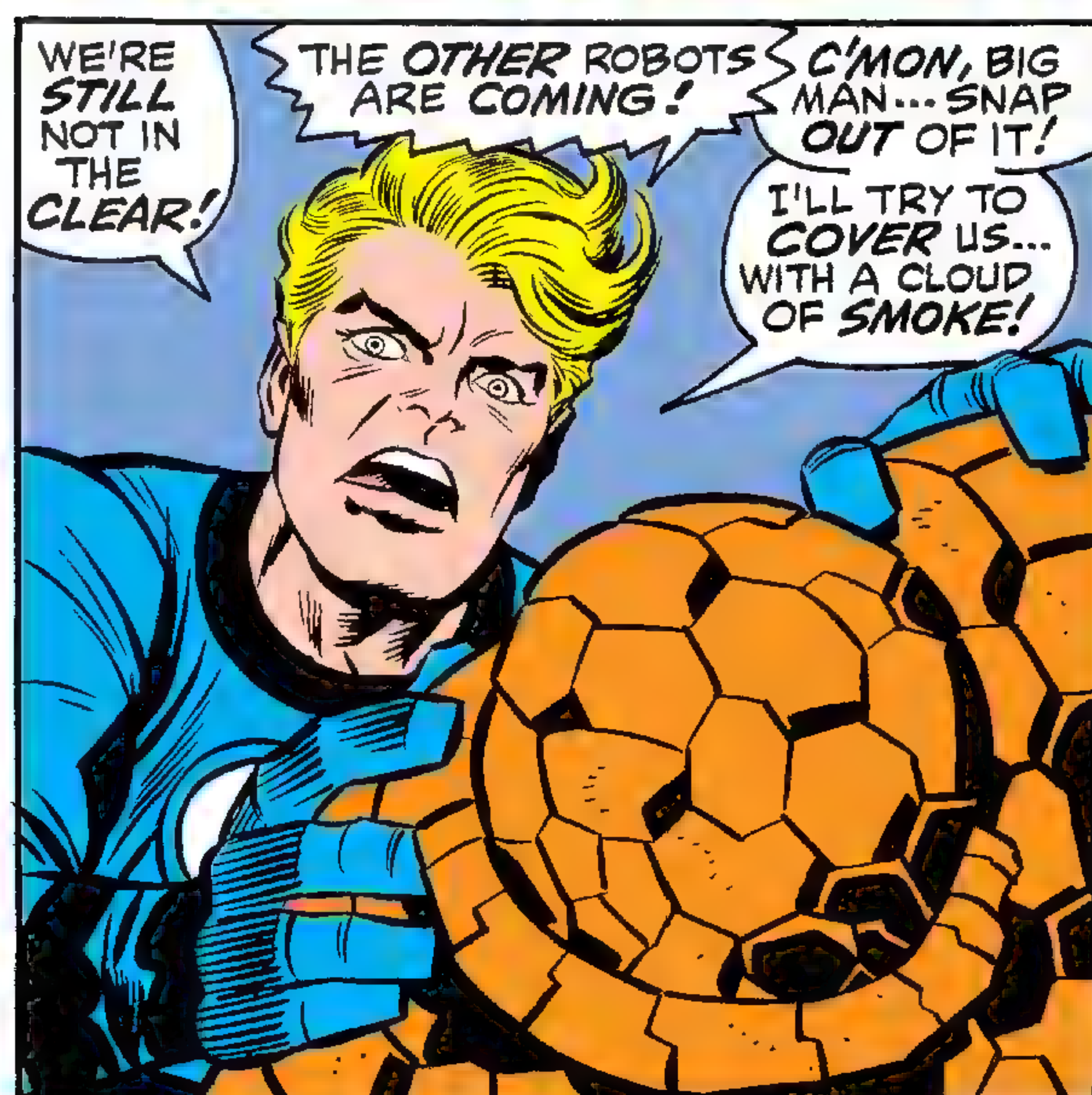


IT'S A GOOD
THING... I CAME
BACK FOR
YOU!

I DON'T KNOW... HOW
IT HAPPENED, BUT...

MY FLAME
POWER IS
RETURNING!

WOO-EEE!
SING IT AGAIN,
TINY TIM!



WE'RE
STILL
NOT IN
THE
CLEAR!

THE OTHER ROBOTS
ARE COMING!

C'MON, BIG
MAN... SNAP
OUT OF IT!

I'LL TRY TO
COVER US...
WITH A CLOUD
OF SMOKE!

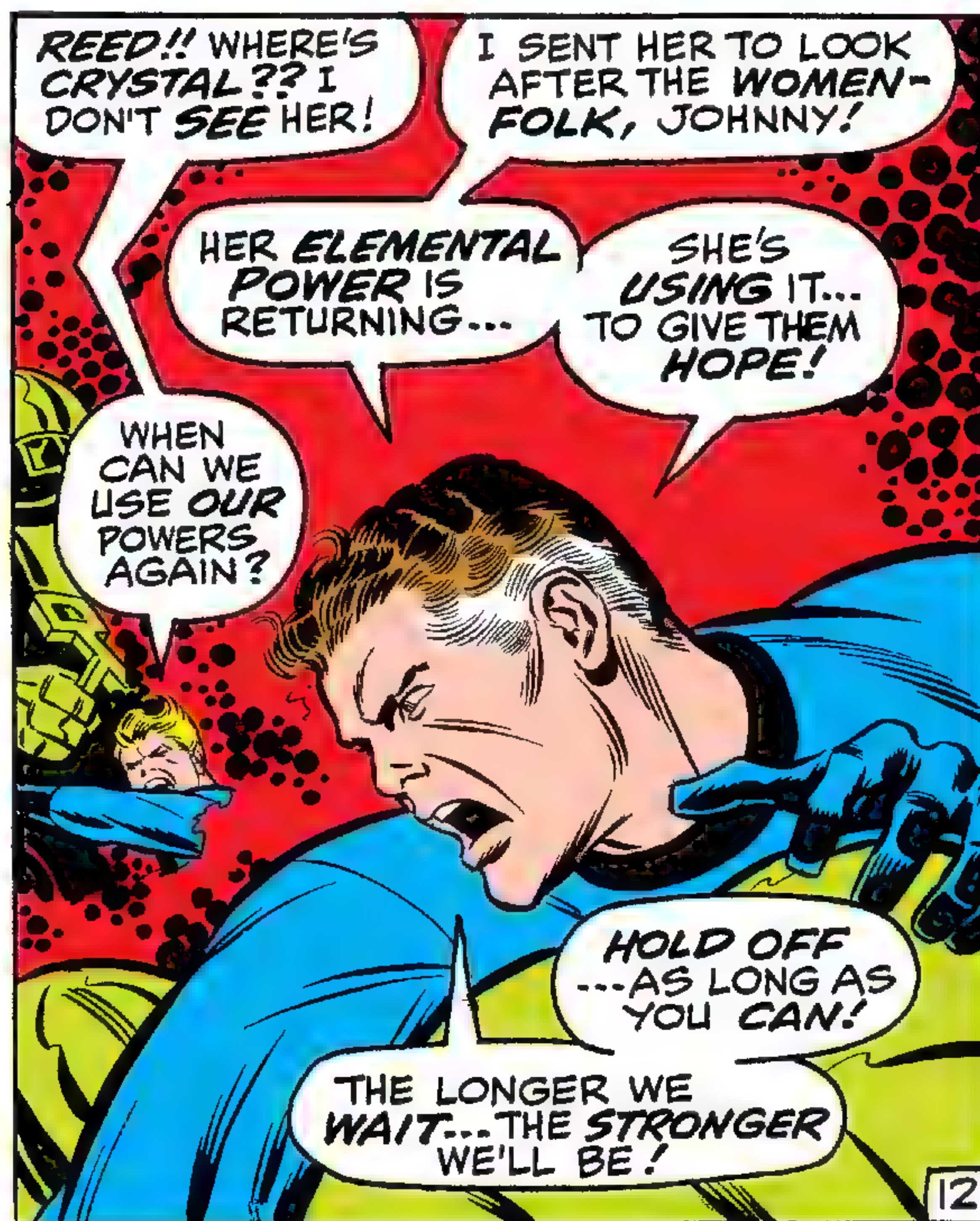
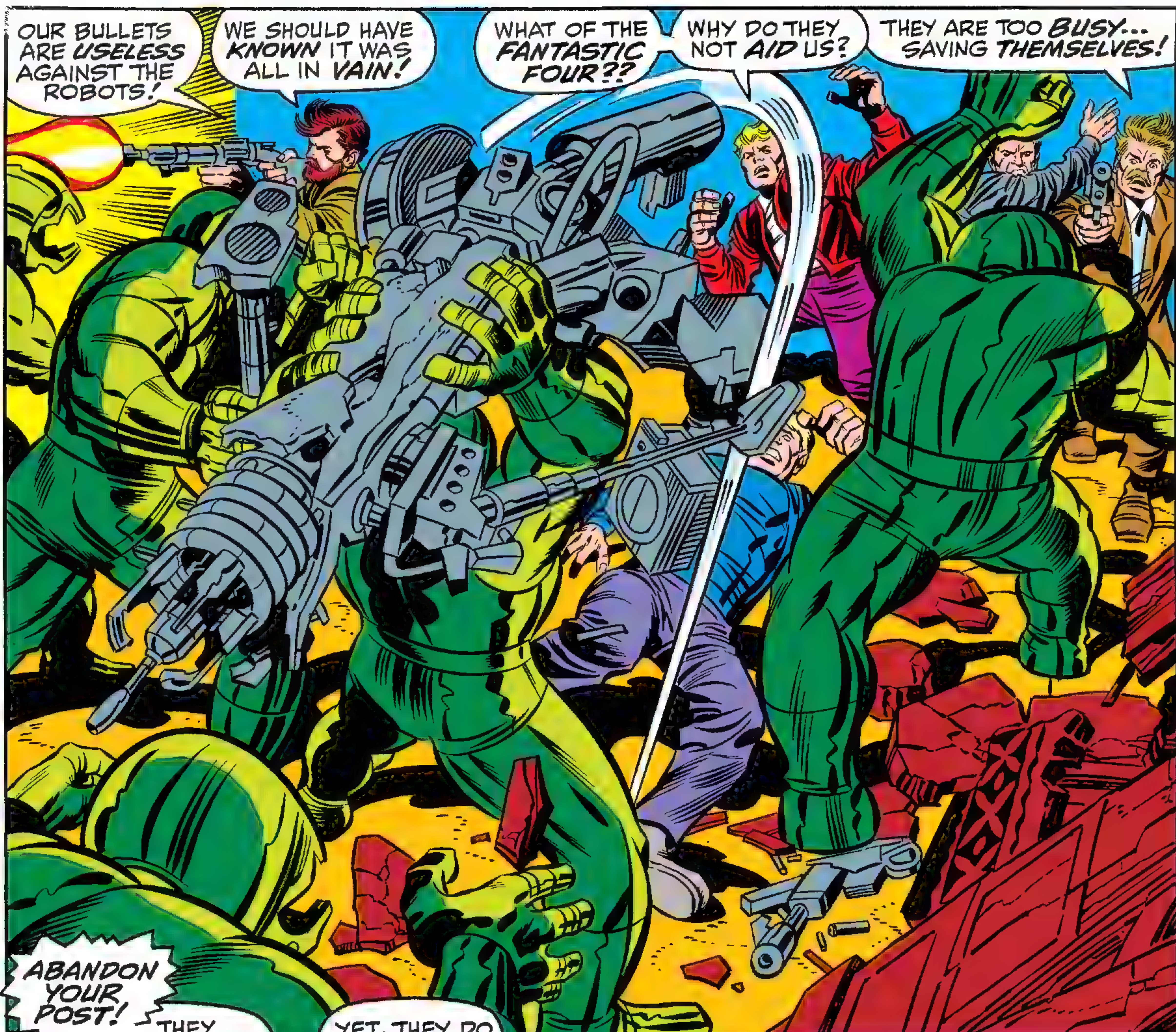


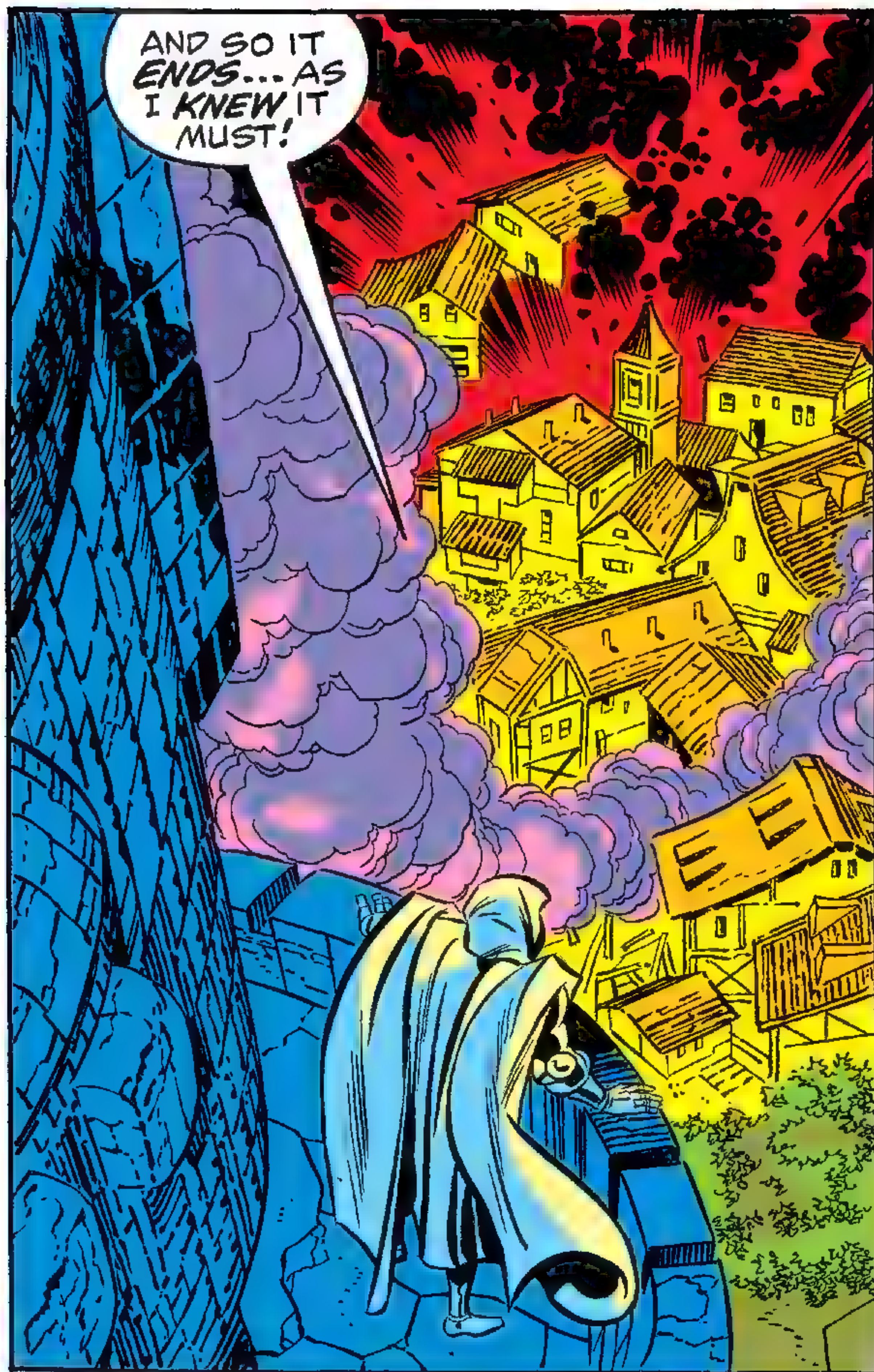
THAT LAST BURST
TOOK TOO MUCH OUT
OF ME!

MY FLAME'S TOO
WEAK TO USE AS
A WEAPON AGAIN!

BUT, WITH
LUCK, IT'LL
SERVE TO
HIDE US!







AND SO IT ENDS... AS I KNEW IT MUST!



THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE STILL RESISTING WITH THEIR CUSTOMARY VALOR...

IS THAT NOT SO, HAUPTMANN?

BUT THIS TIME, ALAS, THEIR FATE IS TRULY SEALED!

I AM NOT CERTAIN, EXCELLENCY!

STATE YOUR REASON, YOU UNSPEAKABLE CLOD!

...OR PAY THE PRICE FOR DIS-PUTING YOUR MONARCH!



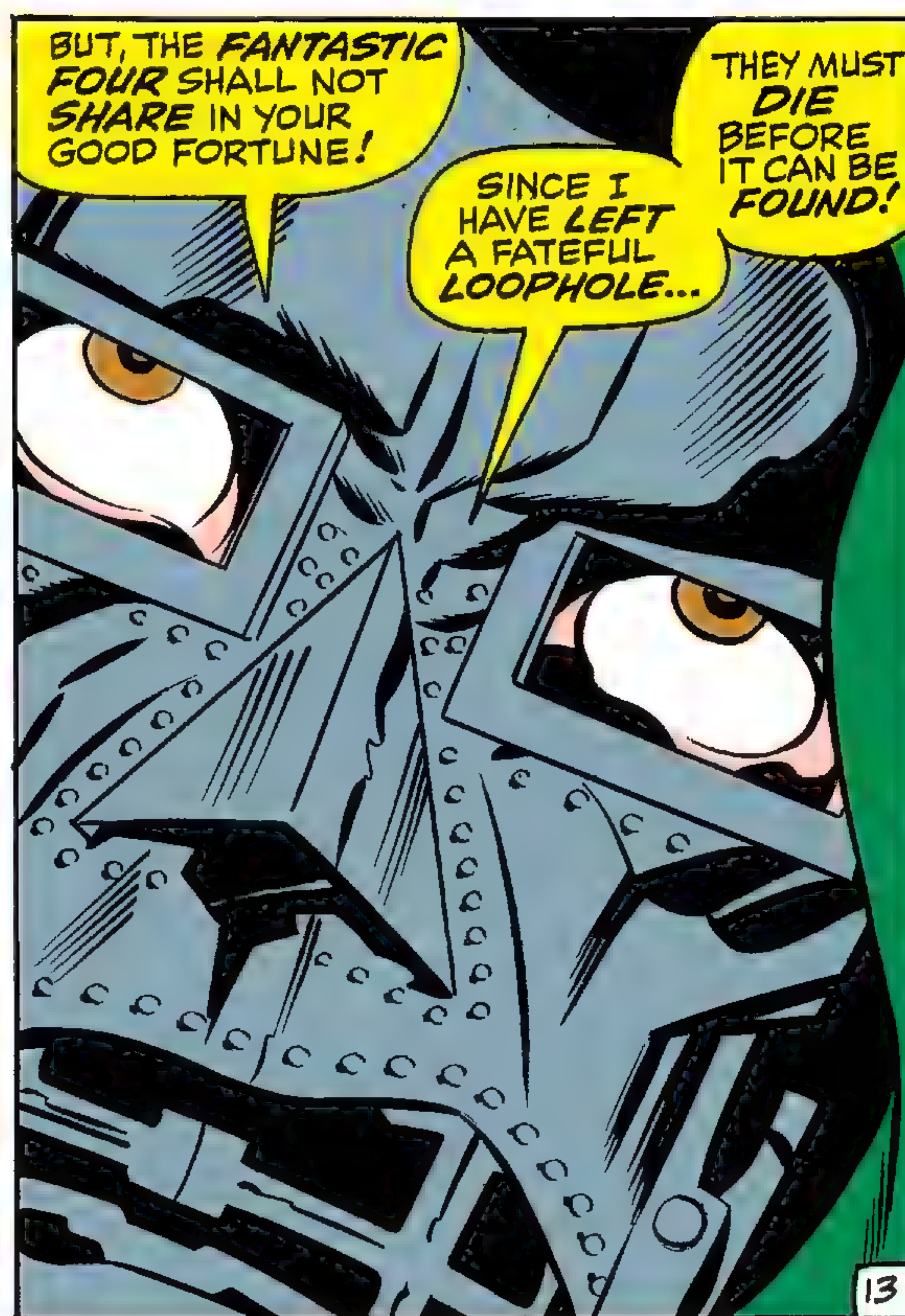
WITH ALL RESPECT, EXCELLENCY...IT IS NEVER WISE TO UNDERESTIMATE THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

HAVE YOU NOT GIVEN THE ROBOTS ONE WEAKNESS...ONE ACHILLES HEEL??

SO LONG AS RICHARDS LIVES, THERE IS THE CHANCE HE MAY DISCOVER IT!

SO! EVEN A JACKAL MAY SPEAK WITH THE TONGUE OF A FOX!

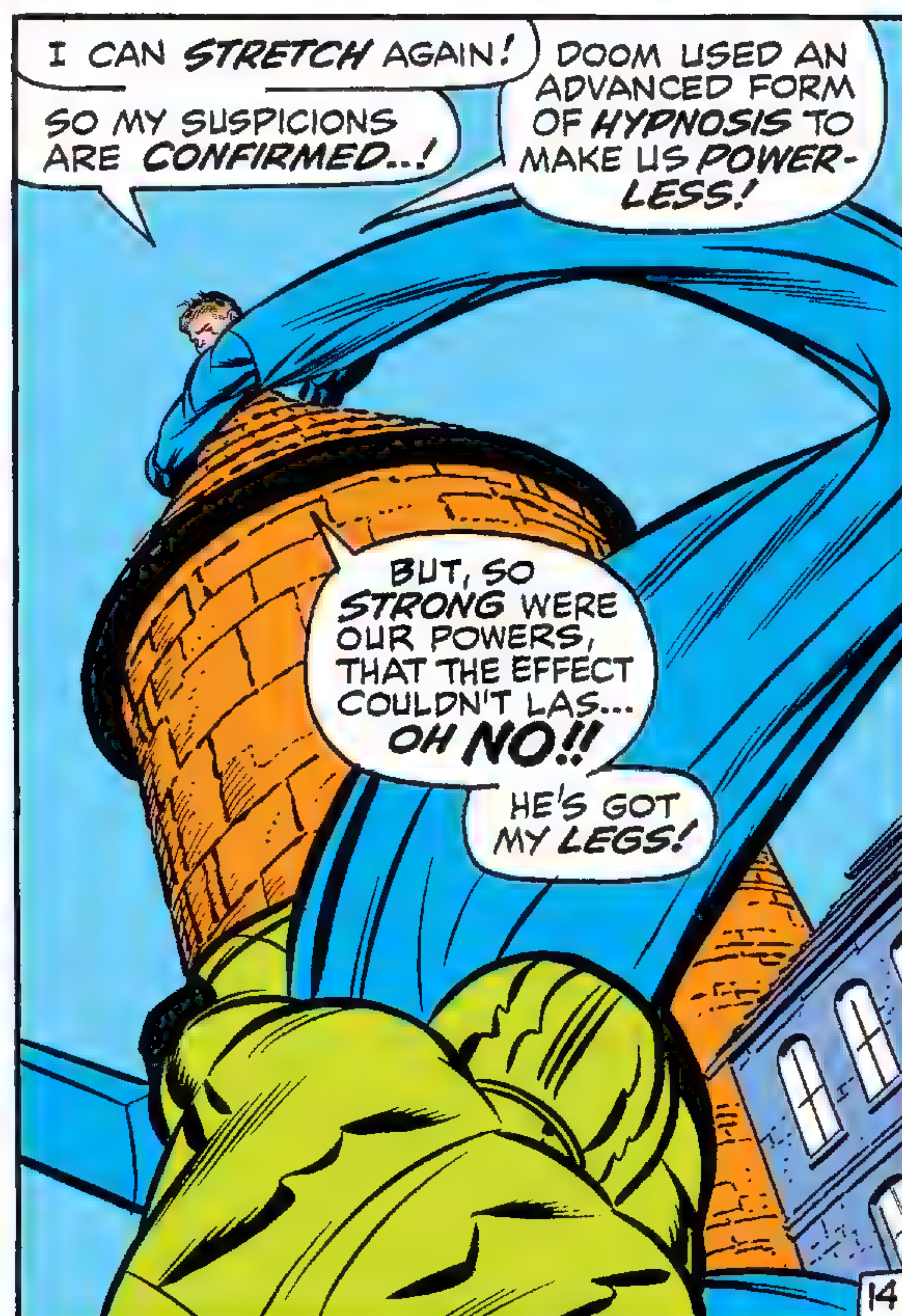
THUS, YOU MAY LIVE A WHILE LONGER!



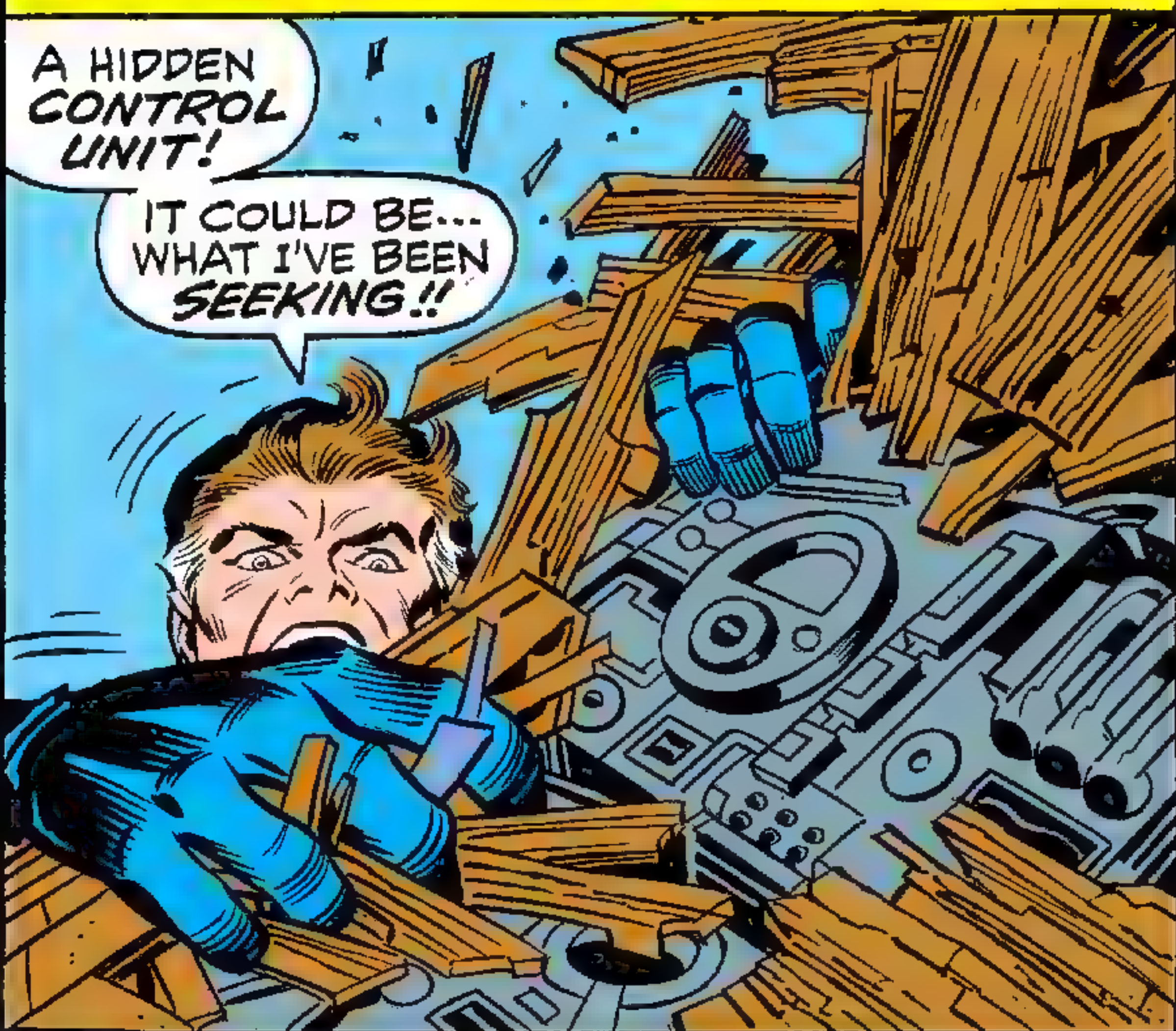
BUT, THE FANTASTIC FOUR SHALL NOT SHARE IN YOUR GOOD FORTUNE!

THEY MUST DIE BEFORE IT CAN BE FOUND!

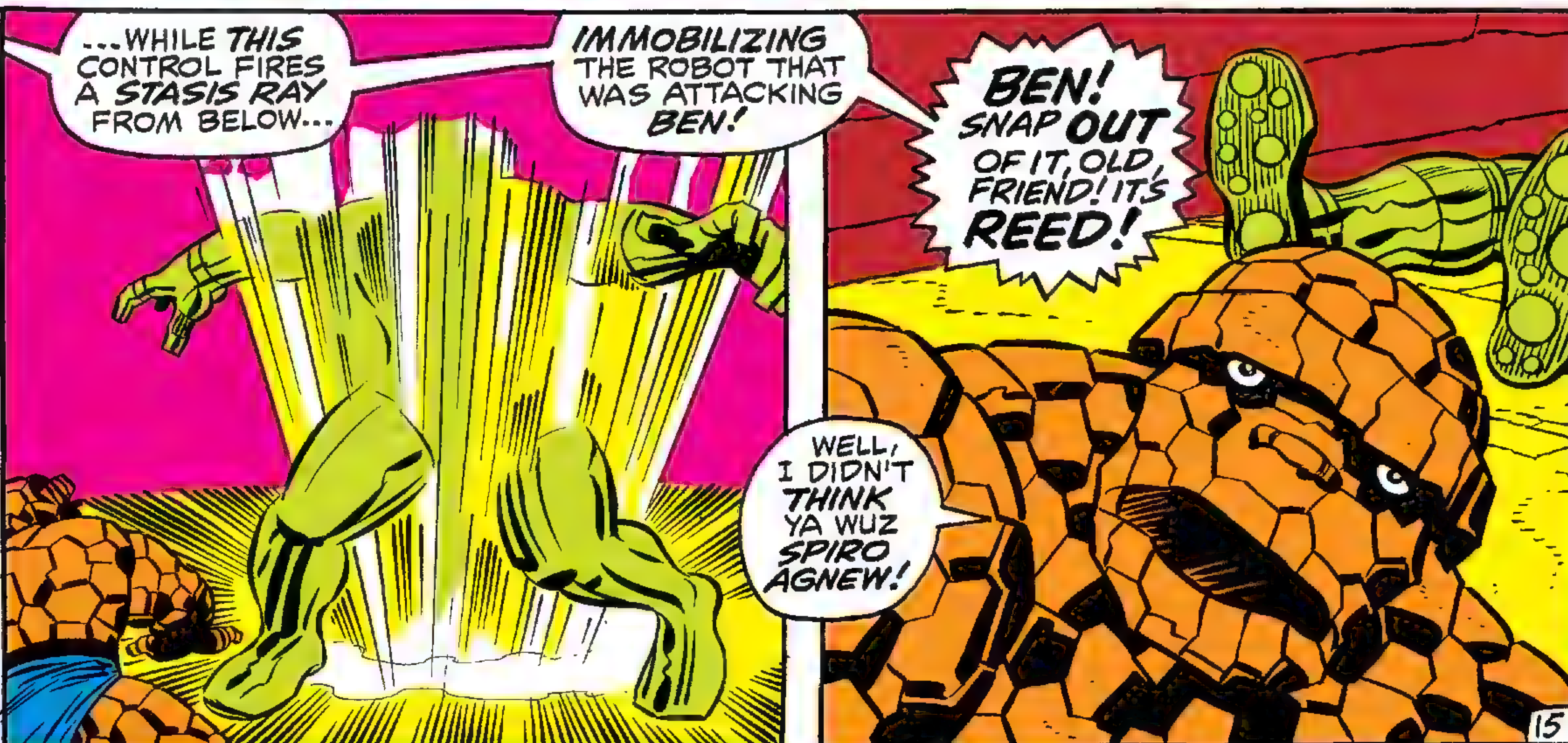
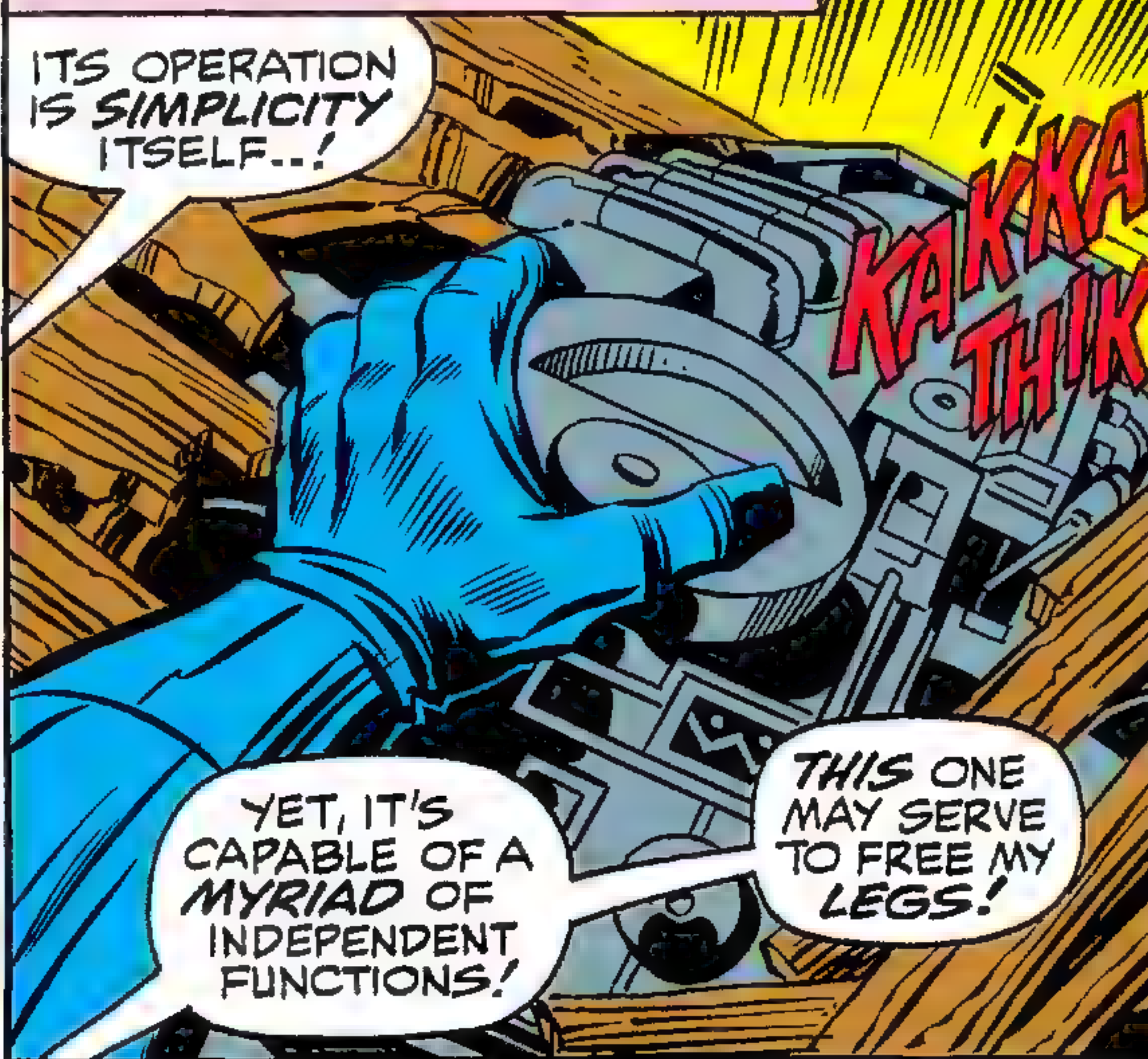
SINCE I HAVE LEFT A FATEFUL LOOPHOLE...

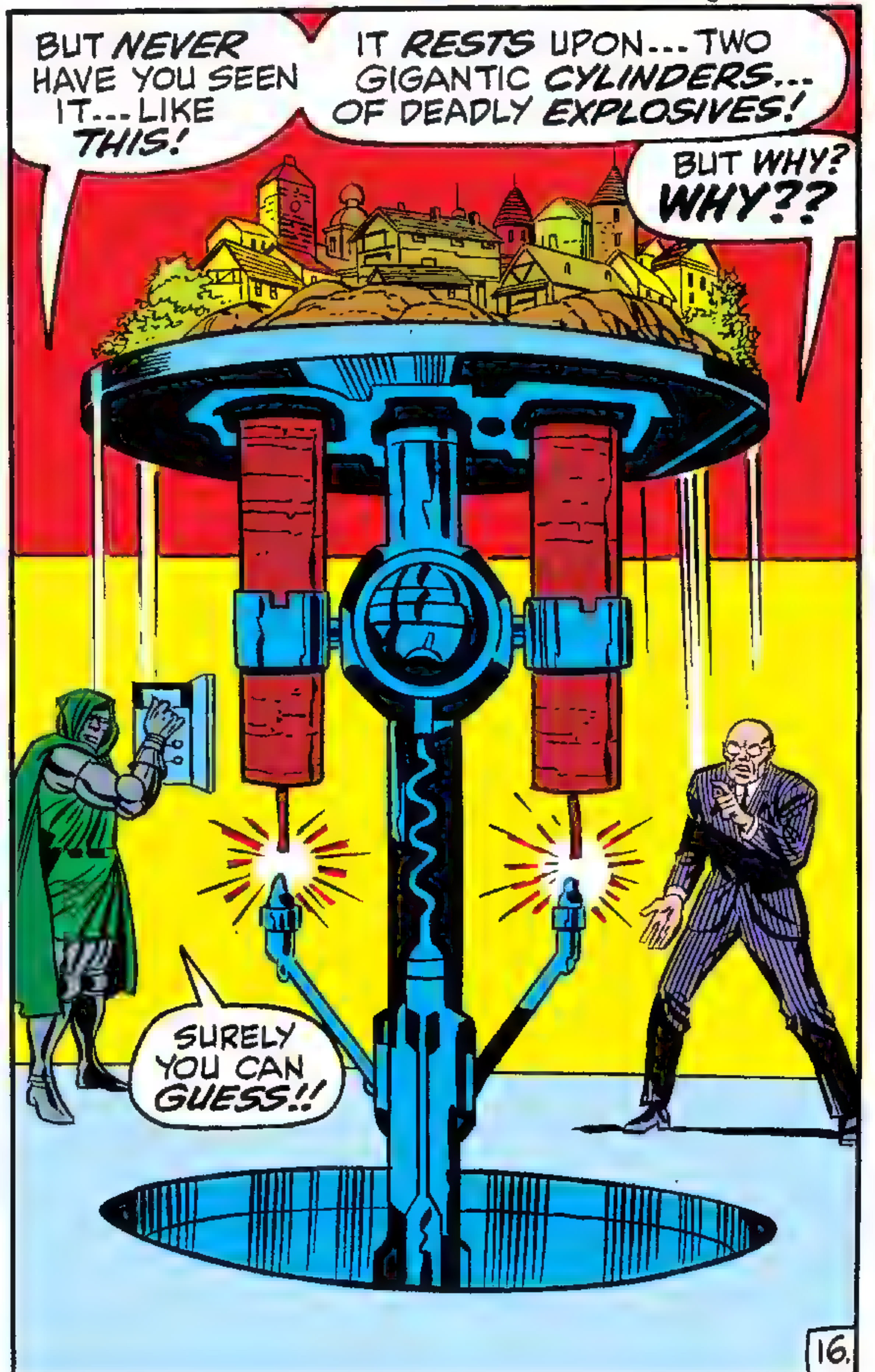
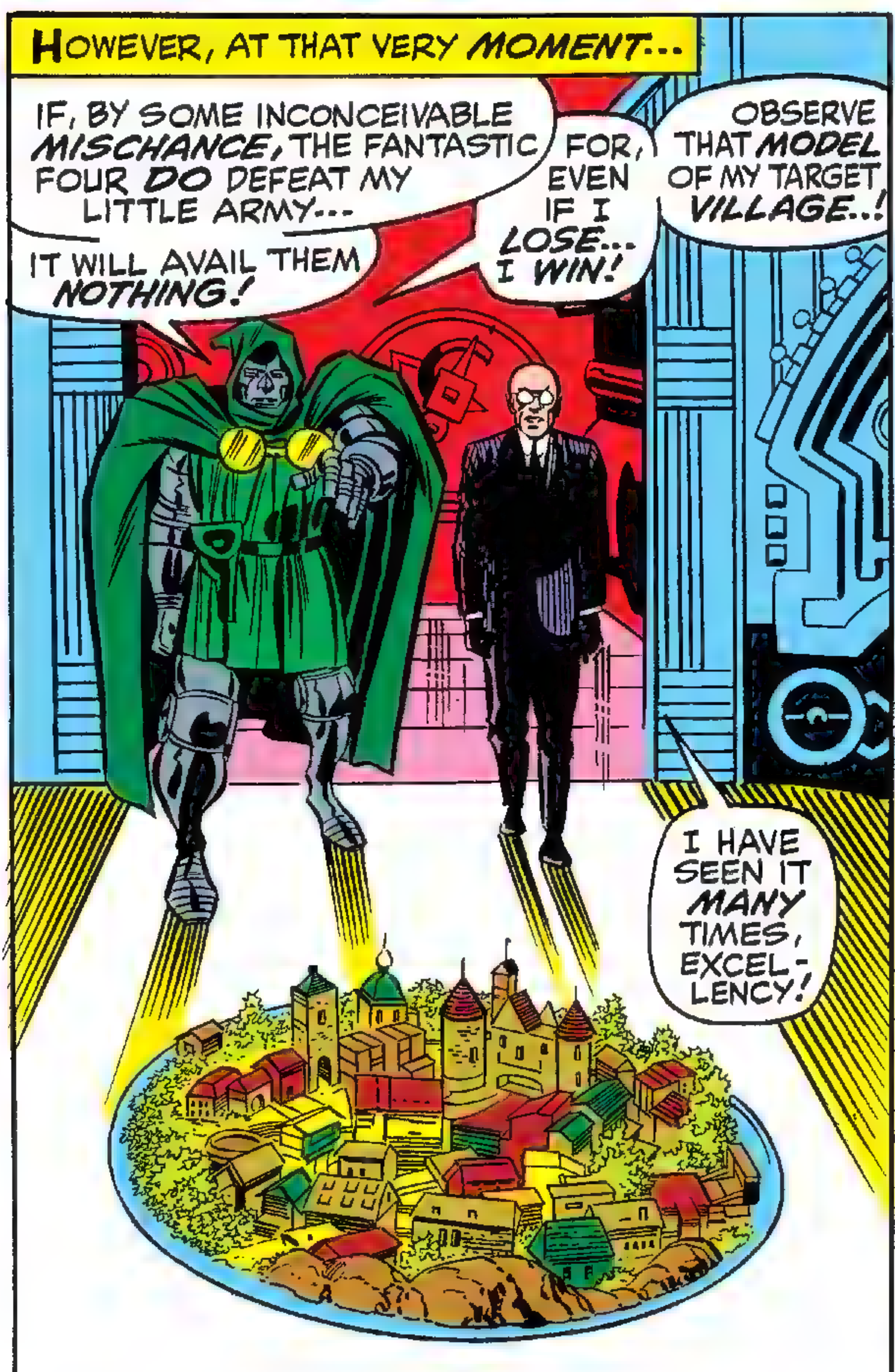
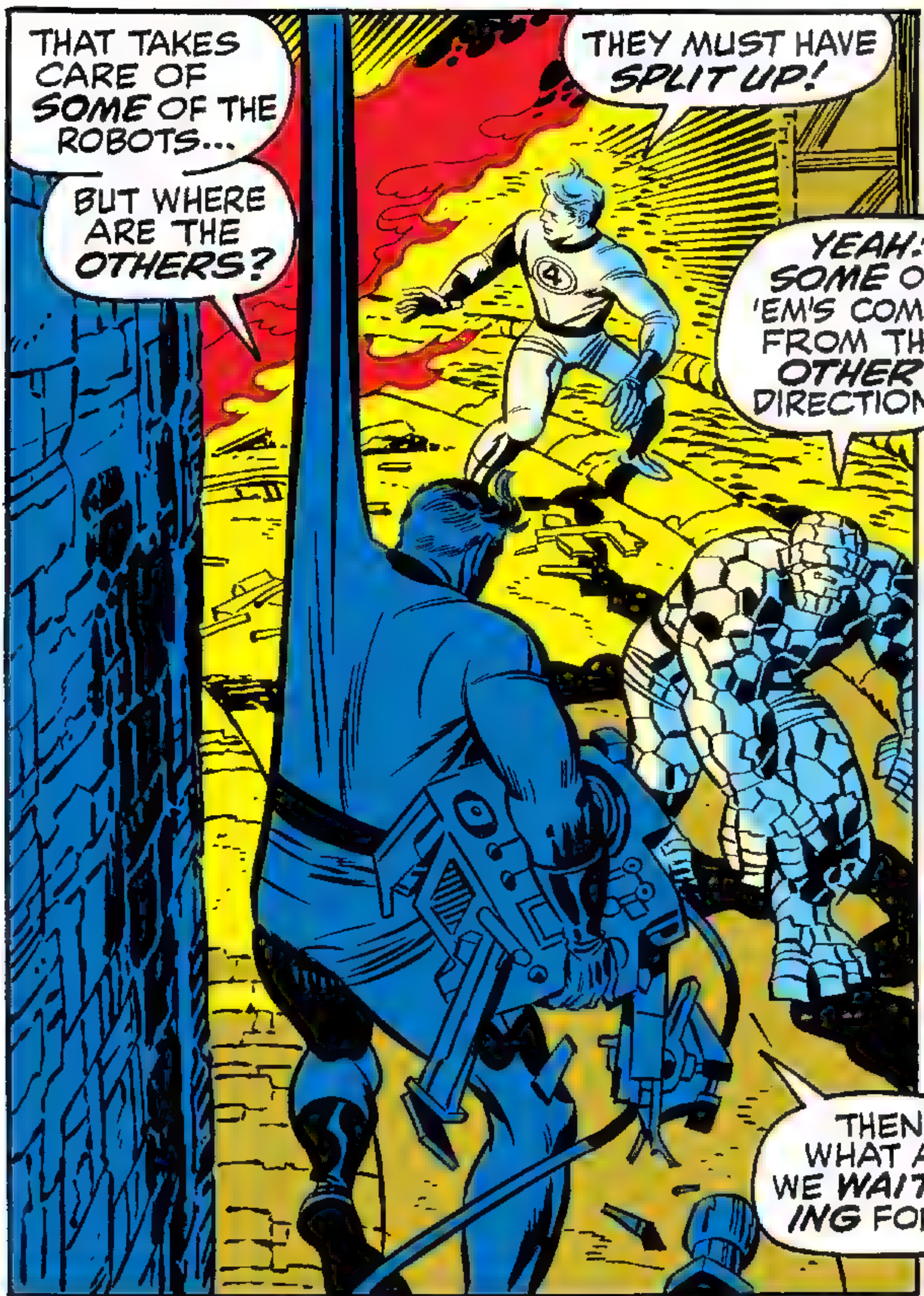


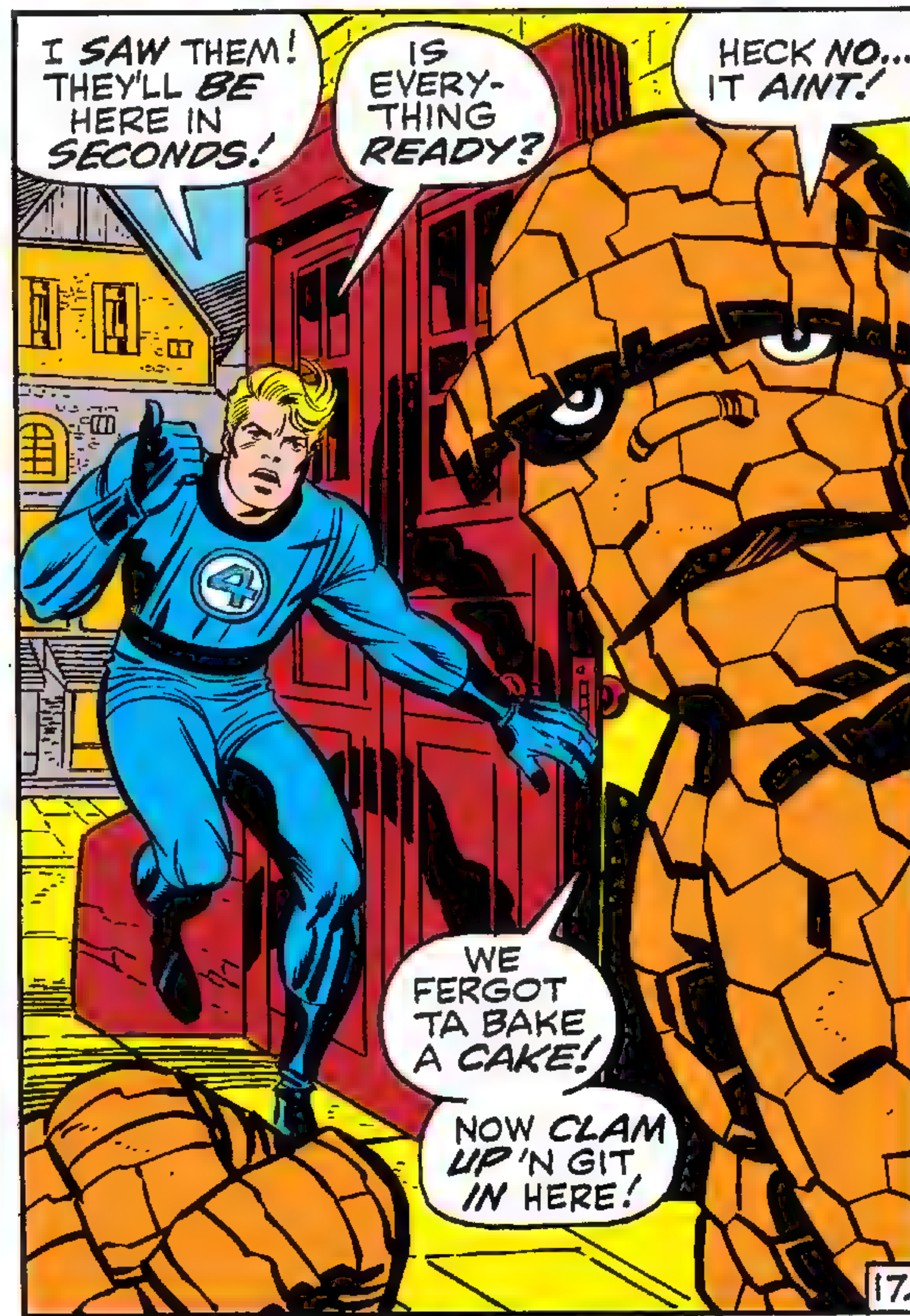
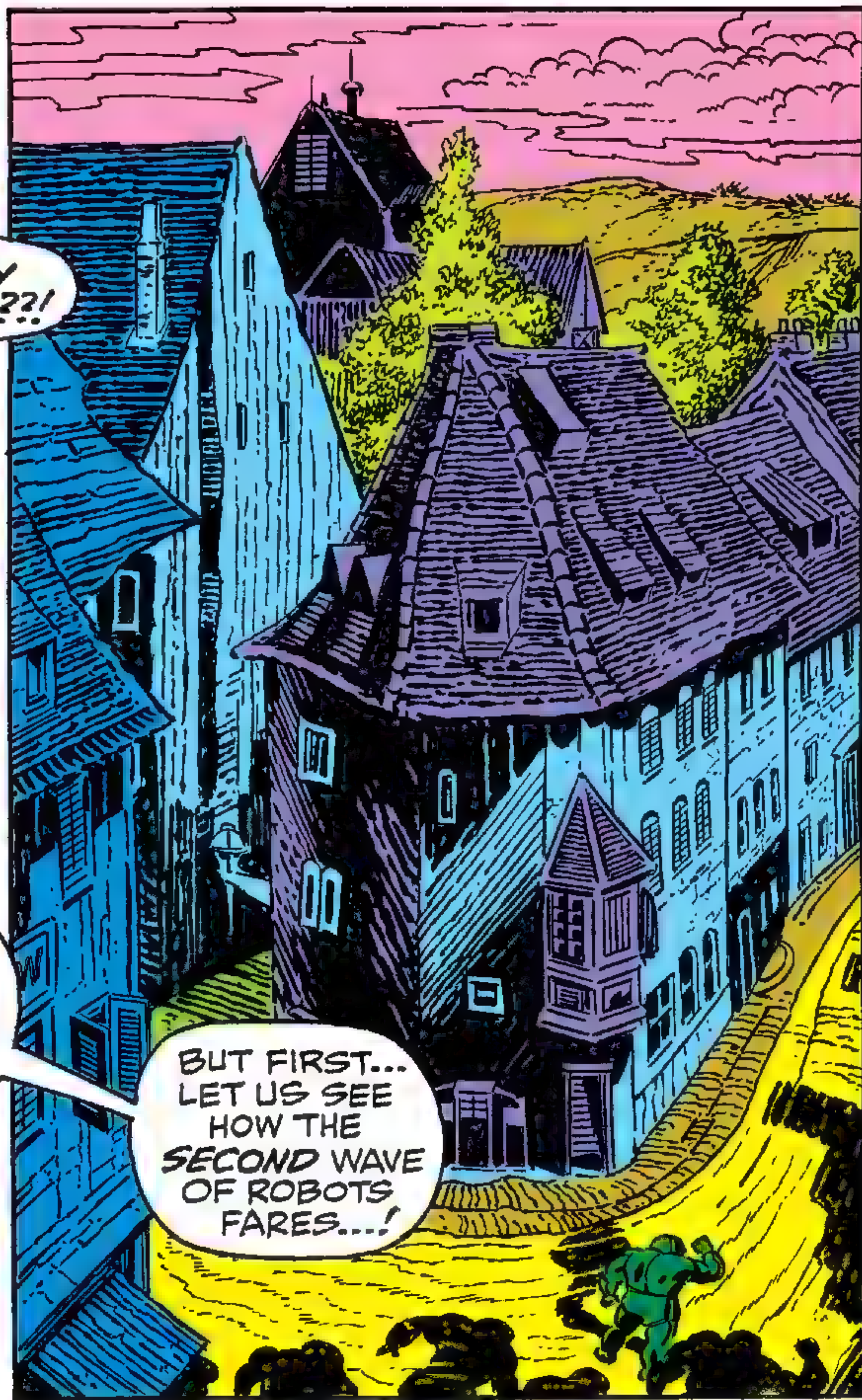
SUDDENLY, AS REED RICHARDS DESPERATELY CLUTCHES THE BELL TOWER FOR SUPPORT... THE WOODEN SHINGLES FALL AWAY...REVEALING...

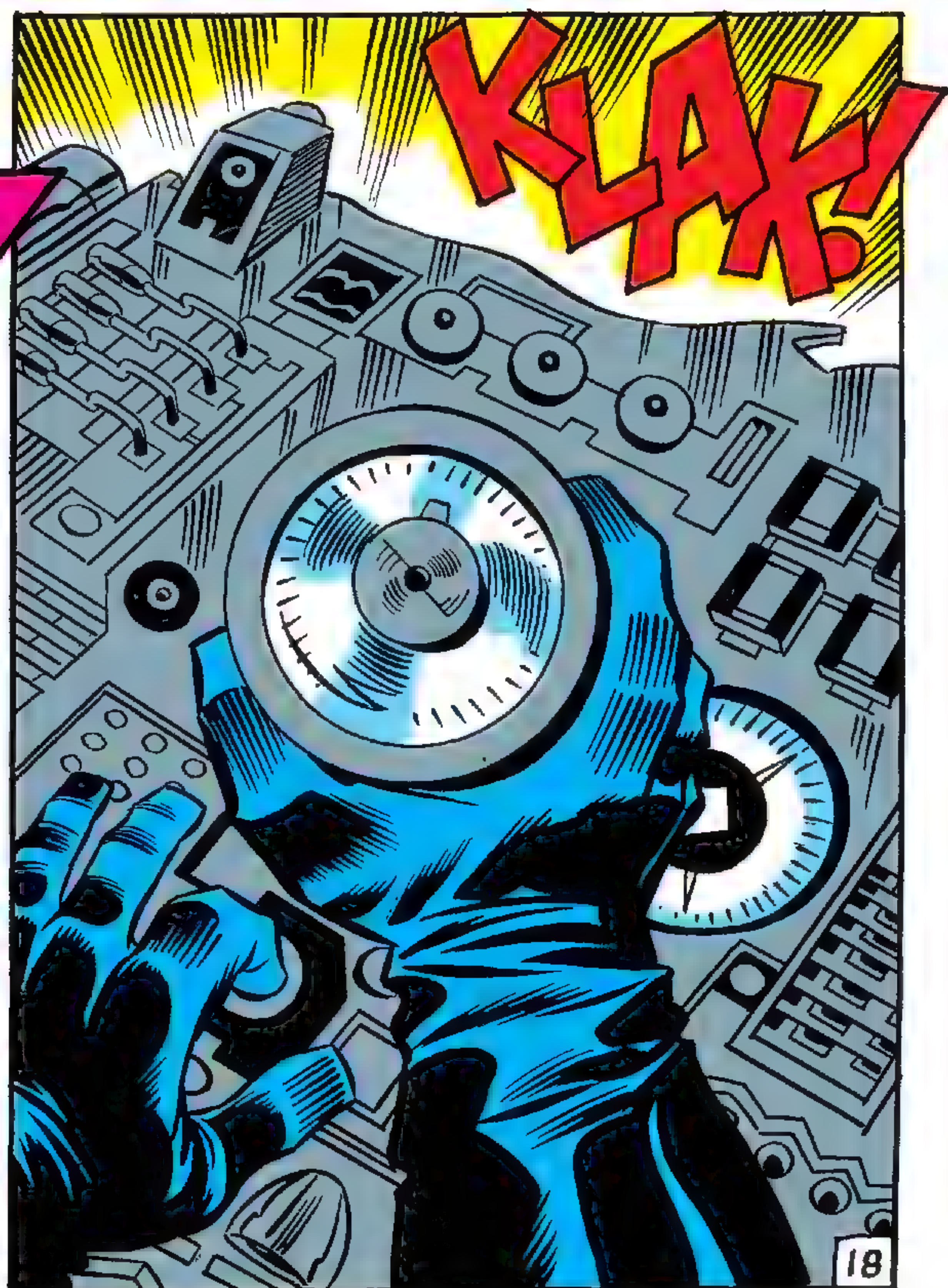
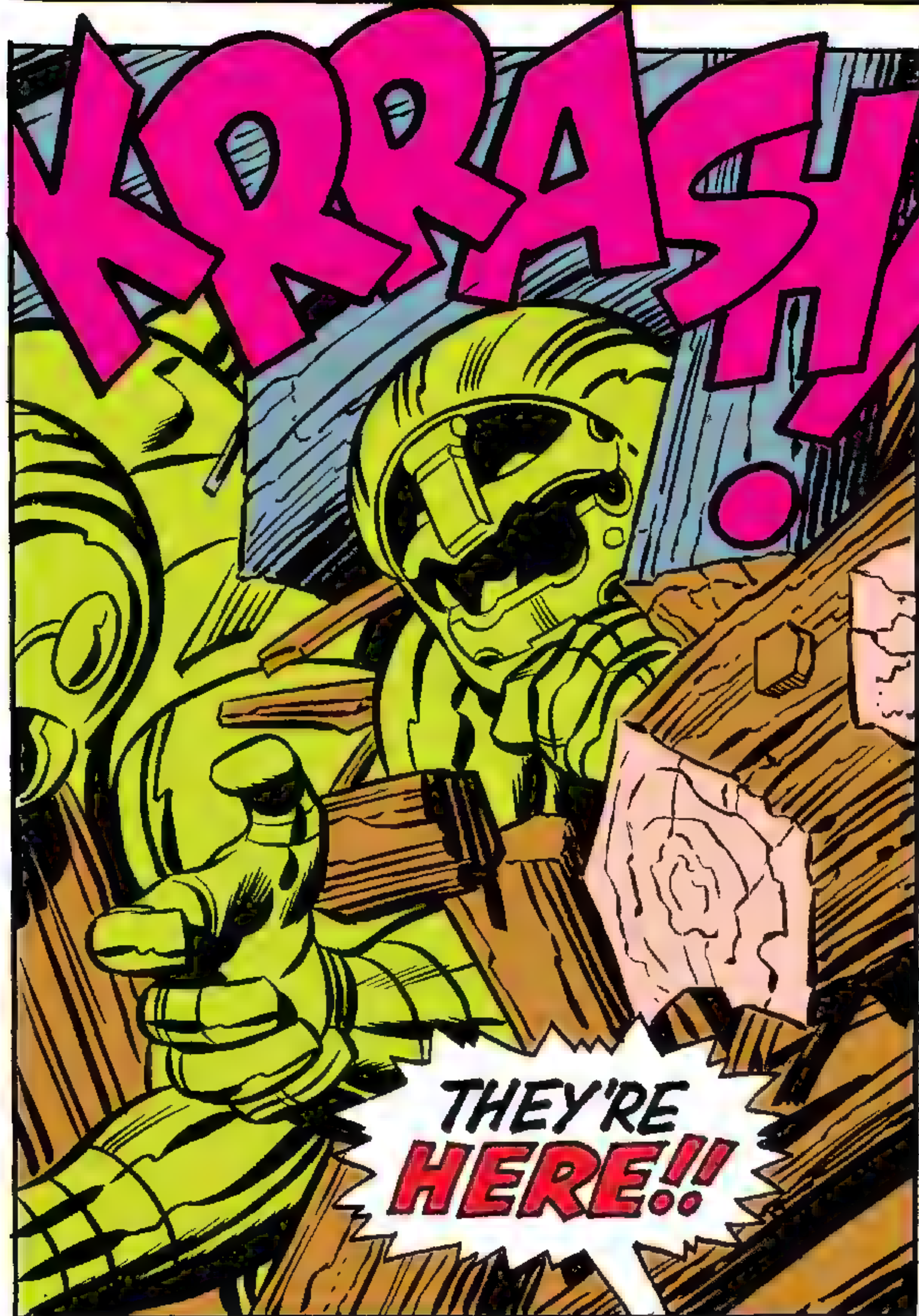
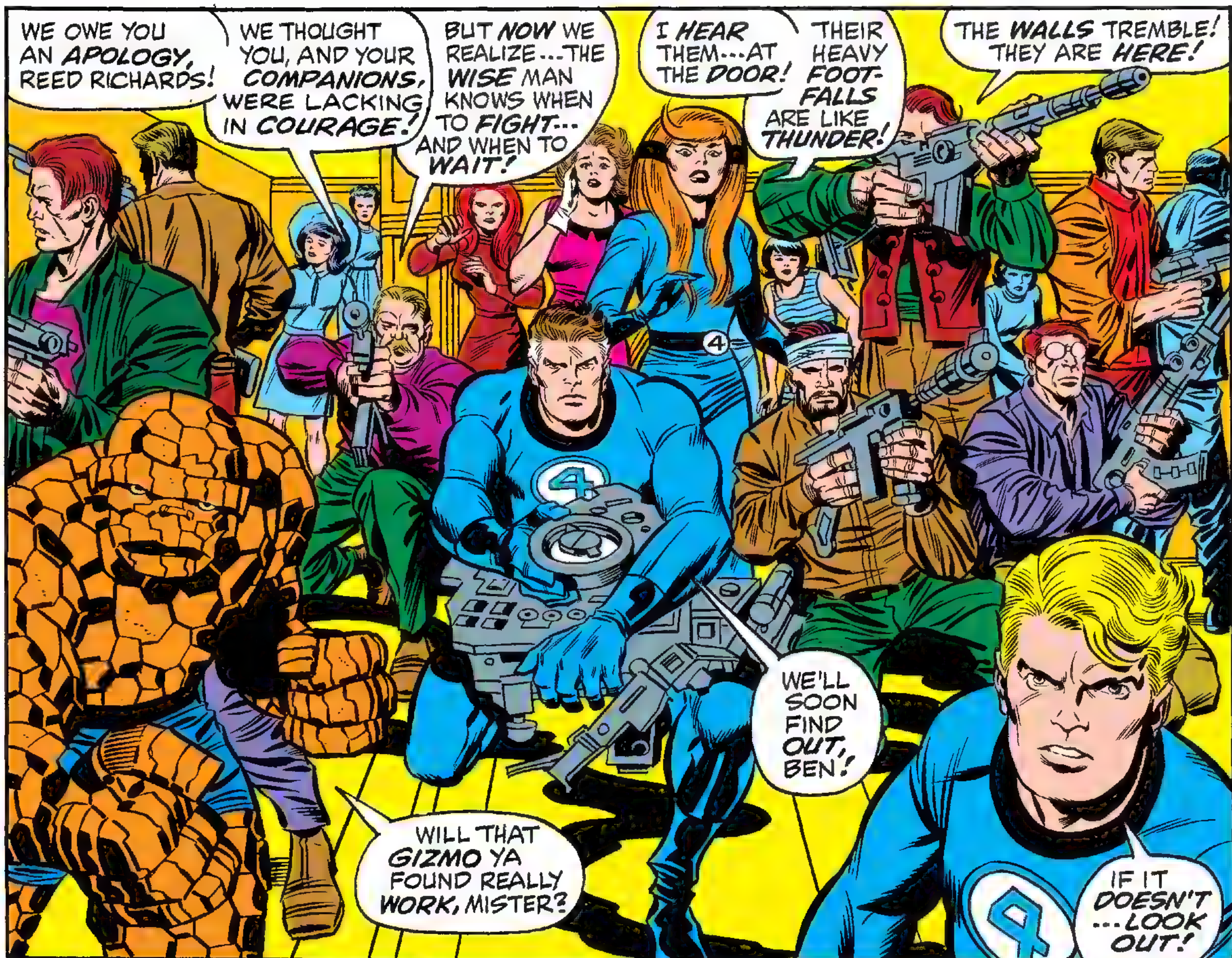


IN SPLIT SECONDS, ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST BRILLIANT SCIENTIFIC BRAINS HAS SCANNED THE COMPLEX UNIT, AND THEN...









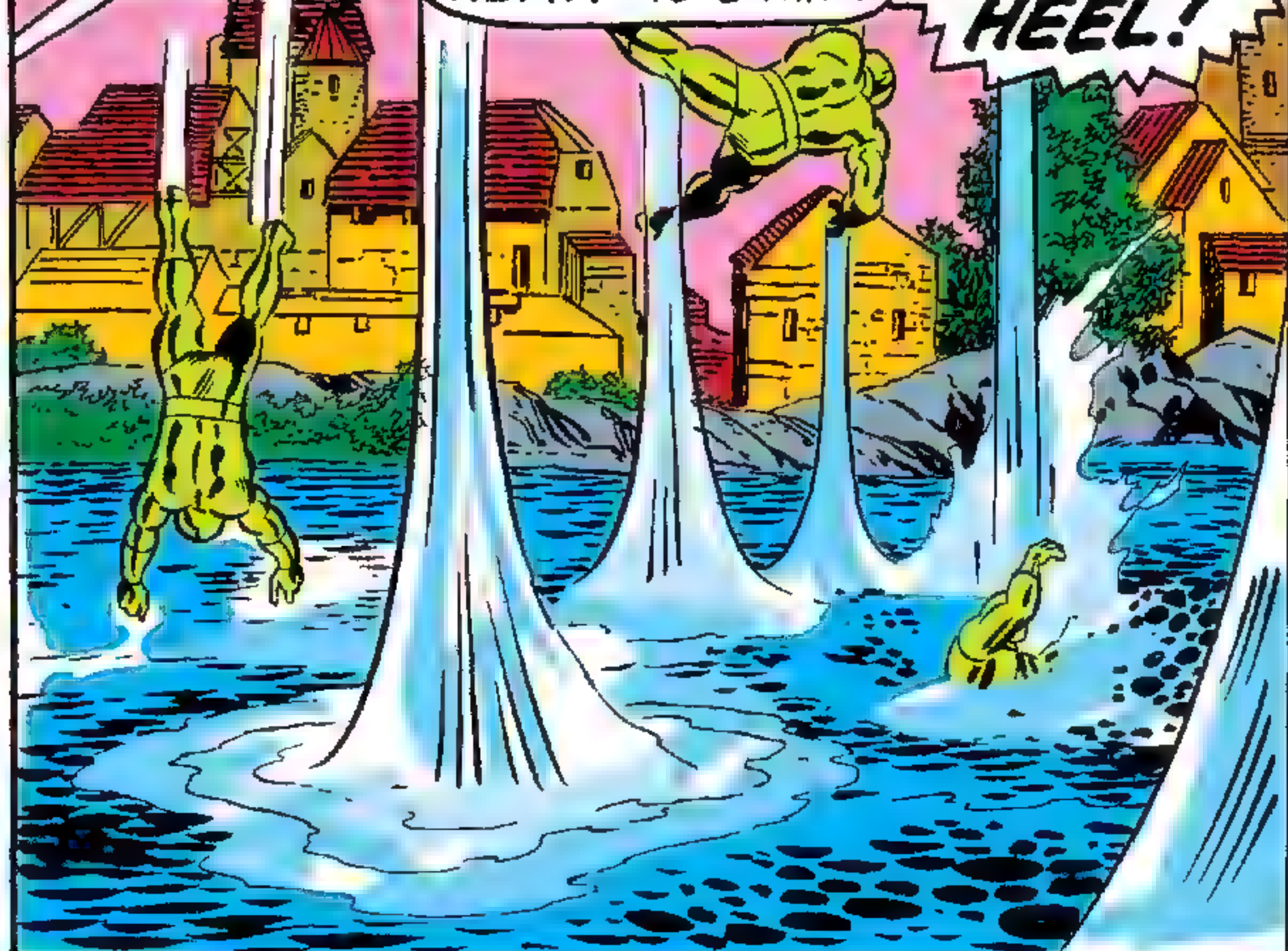


THEY'RE ALL
...FLYING
INTO THE
AIR!!

--AND LANDING
IN THE **BOTTOM-
LESS LAKE!**

THEY'RE SINKING
LIKE **ROCKS!!**
THEY'RE TOO
HEAVY TO SWIM!

**THAT
WAS THEIR
ACHILLES
HEEL!**



THE **CONTROL DEVICE** TRIGGERED A
HIDDEN **TURBULENCE PRESSURE ENGINE!**

**THAT'S WHAT
HURLED THEM
INTO THE AIR!**



AGAIN THEY'VE **OUT-FOUGHT**
ME... **OUT-SMARTED** ME!

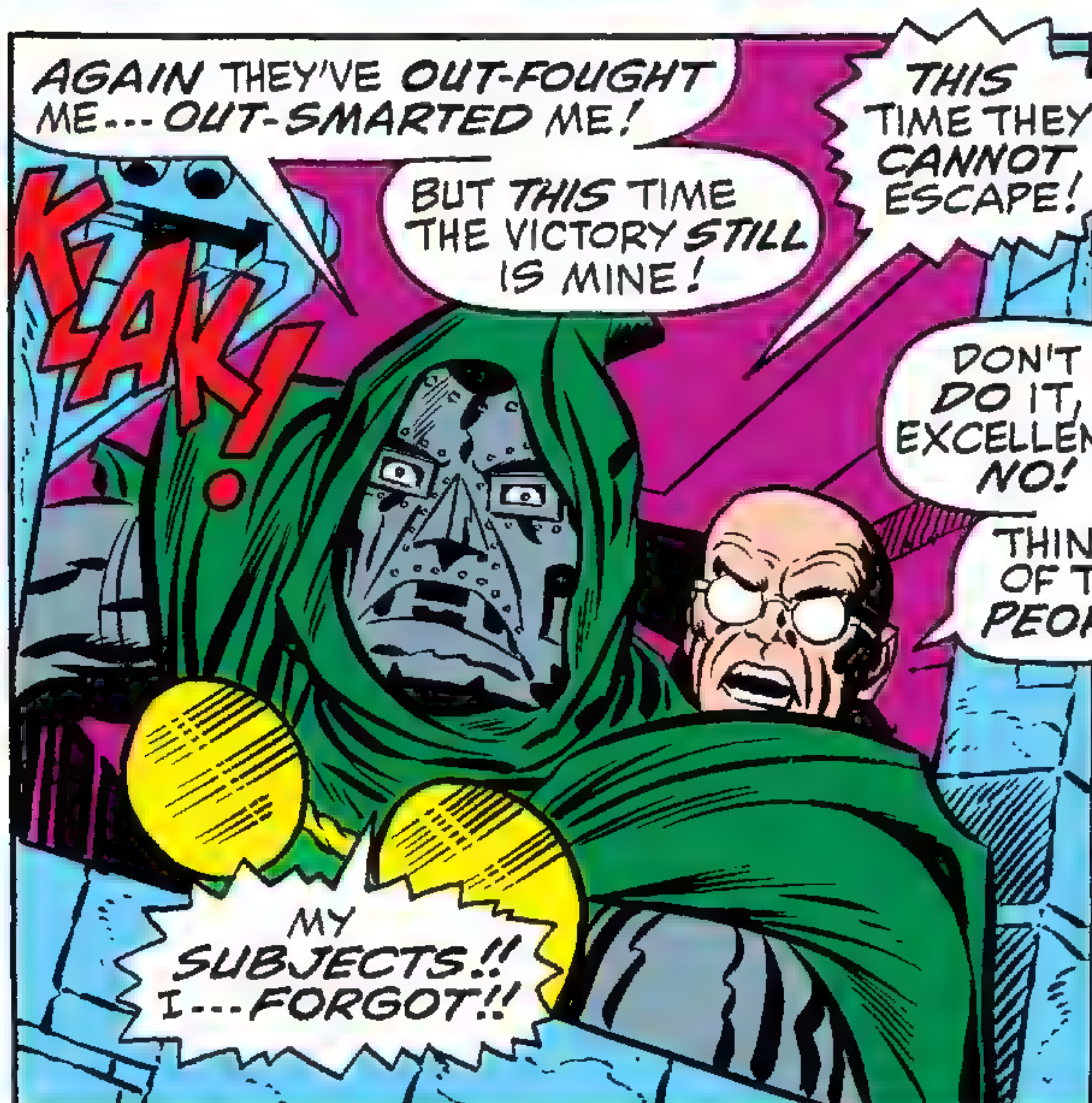
BUT **THIS** TIME
THE **VICTORY** **STILL**
IS **MINE!**

**THIS
TIME THEY
CANNOT
ESCAPE!**

DON'T
DO IT,
EXCELLENCY!
NO!

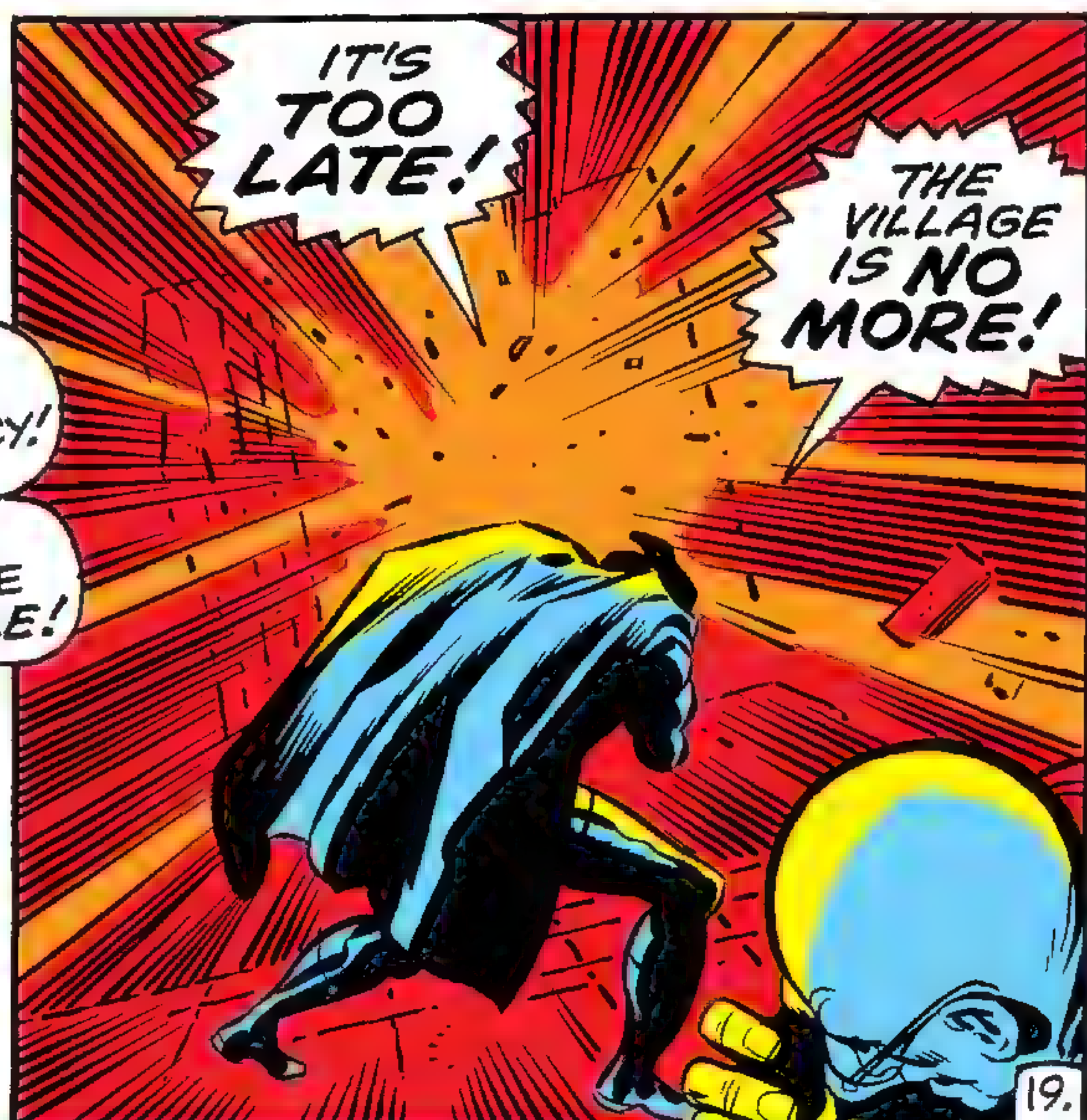
THINK
OF THE
PEOPLE!

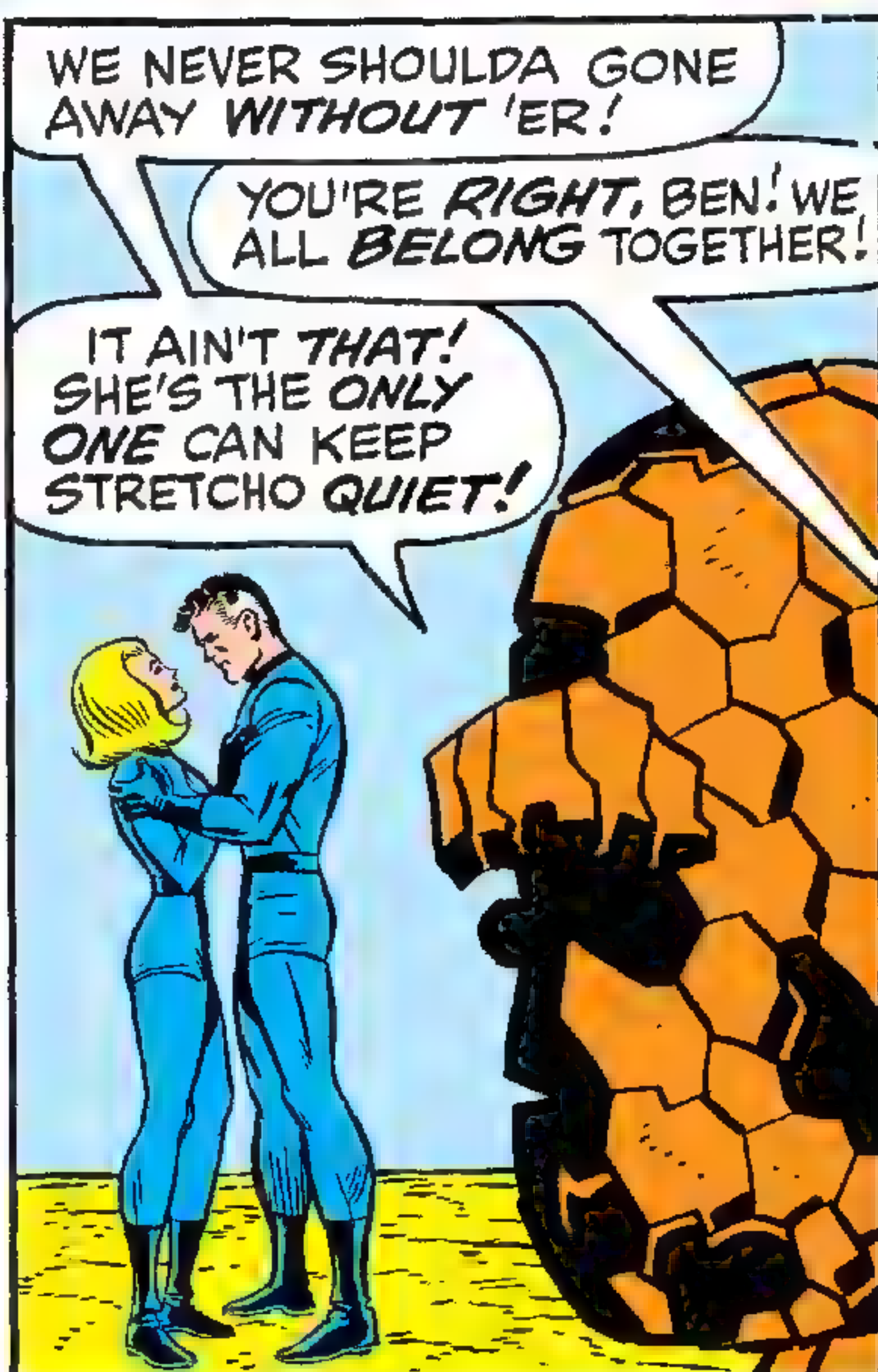
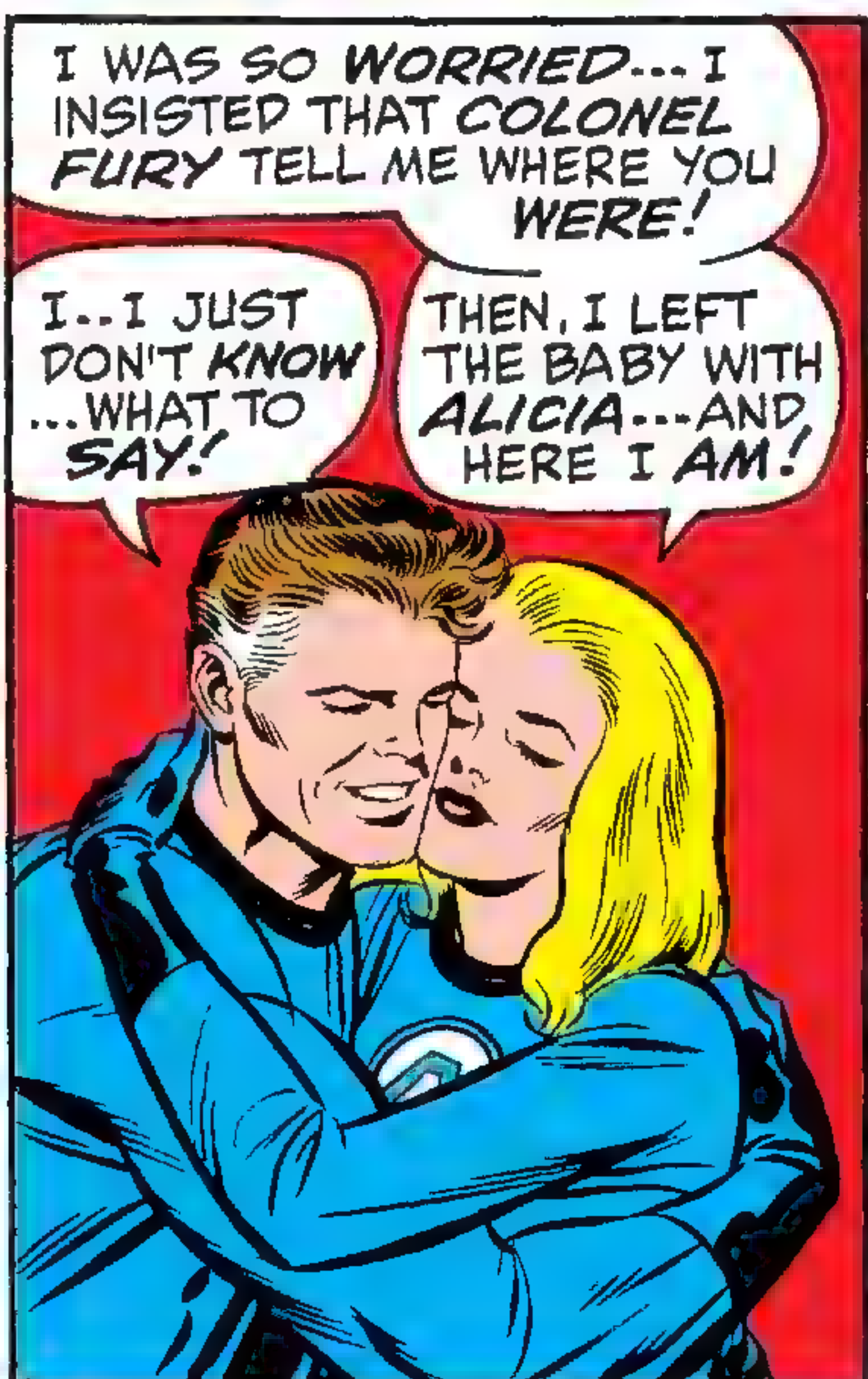
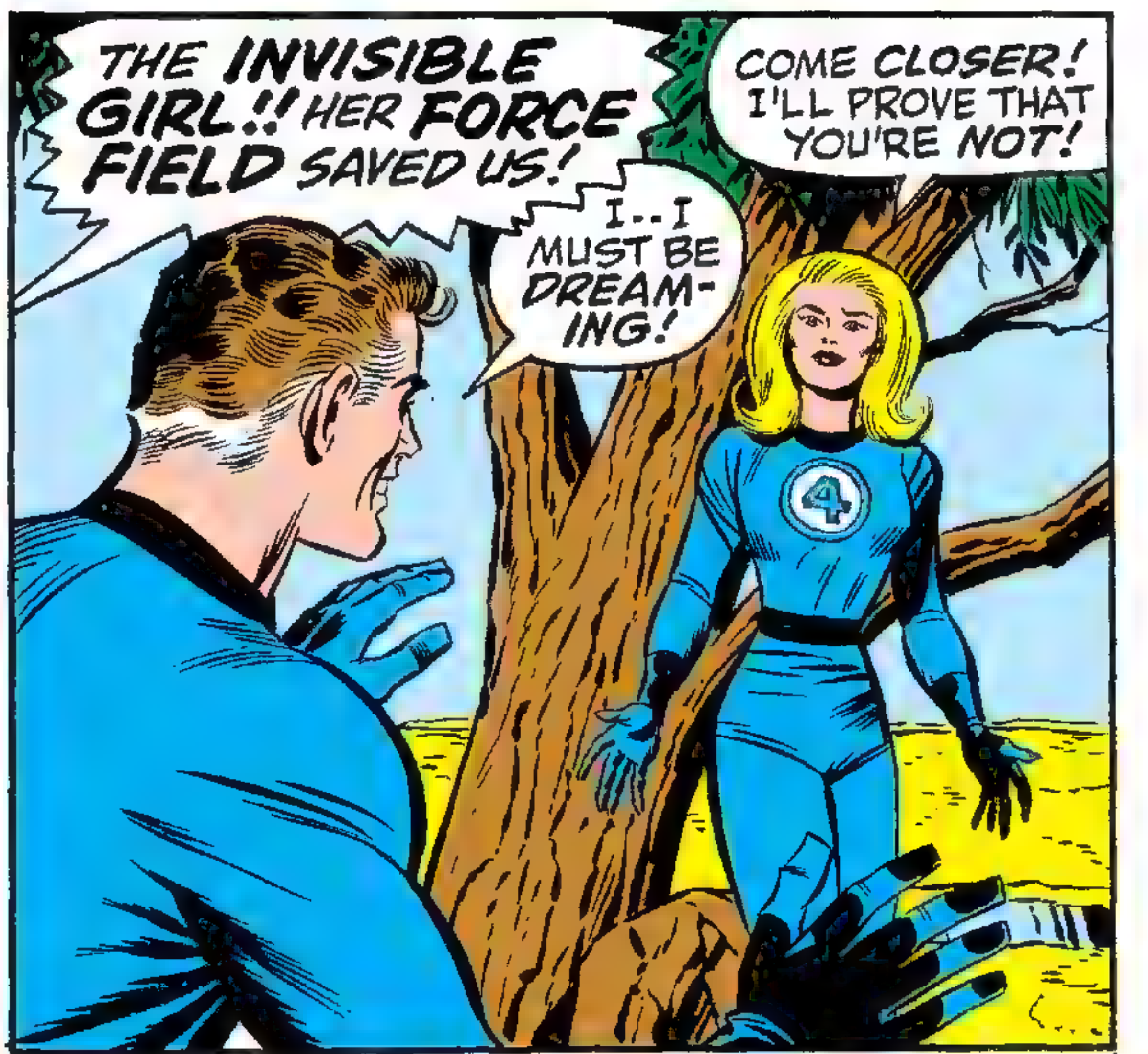
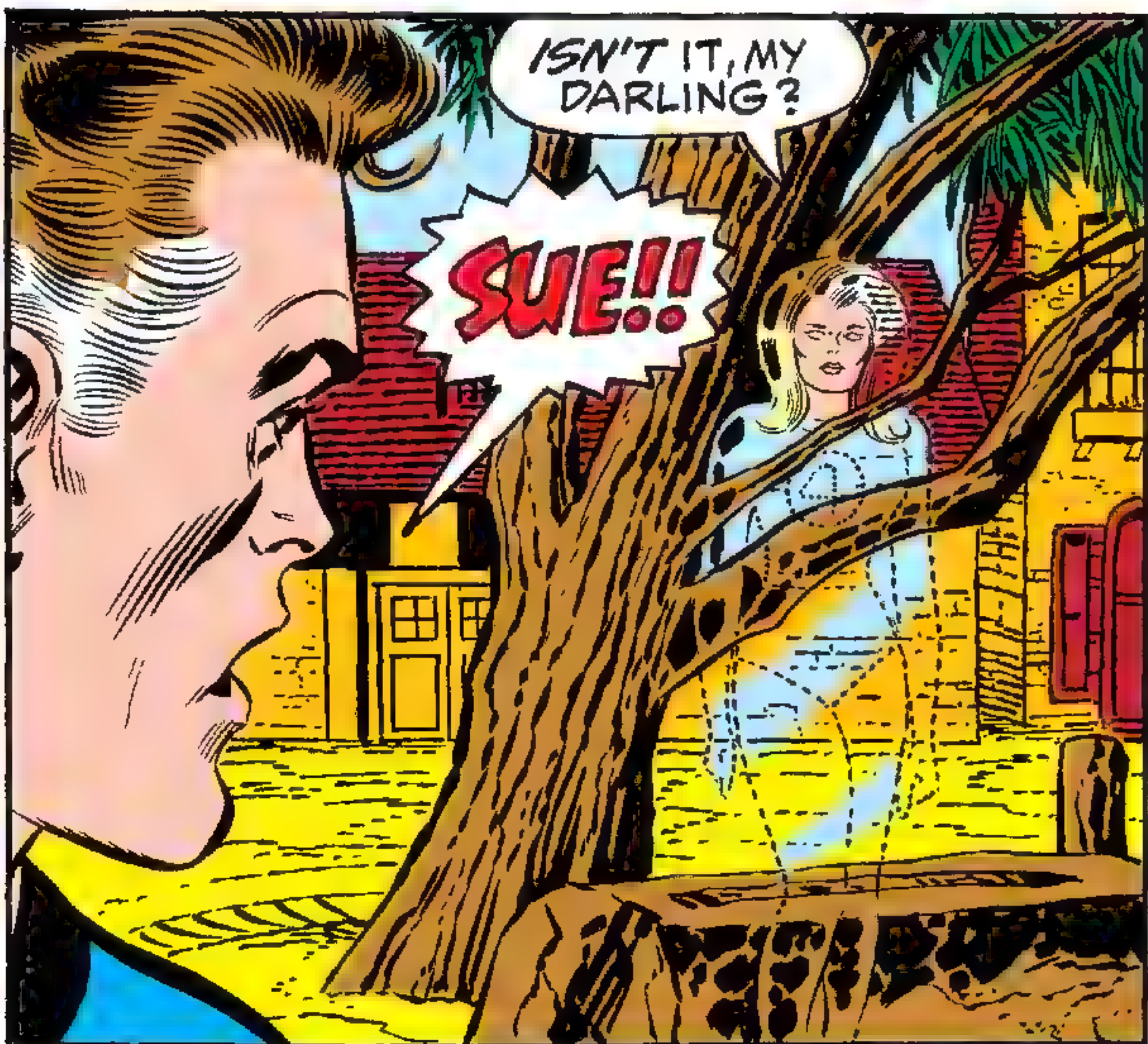
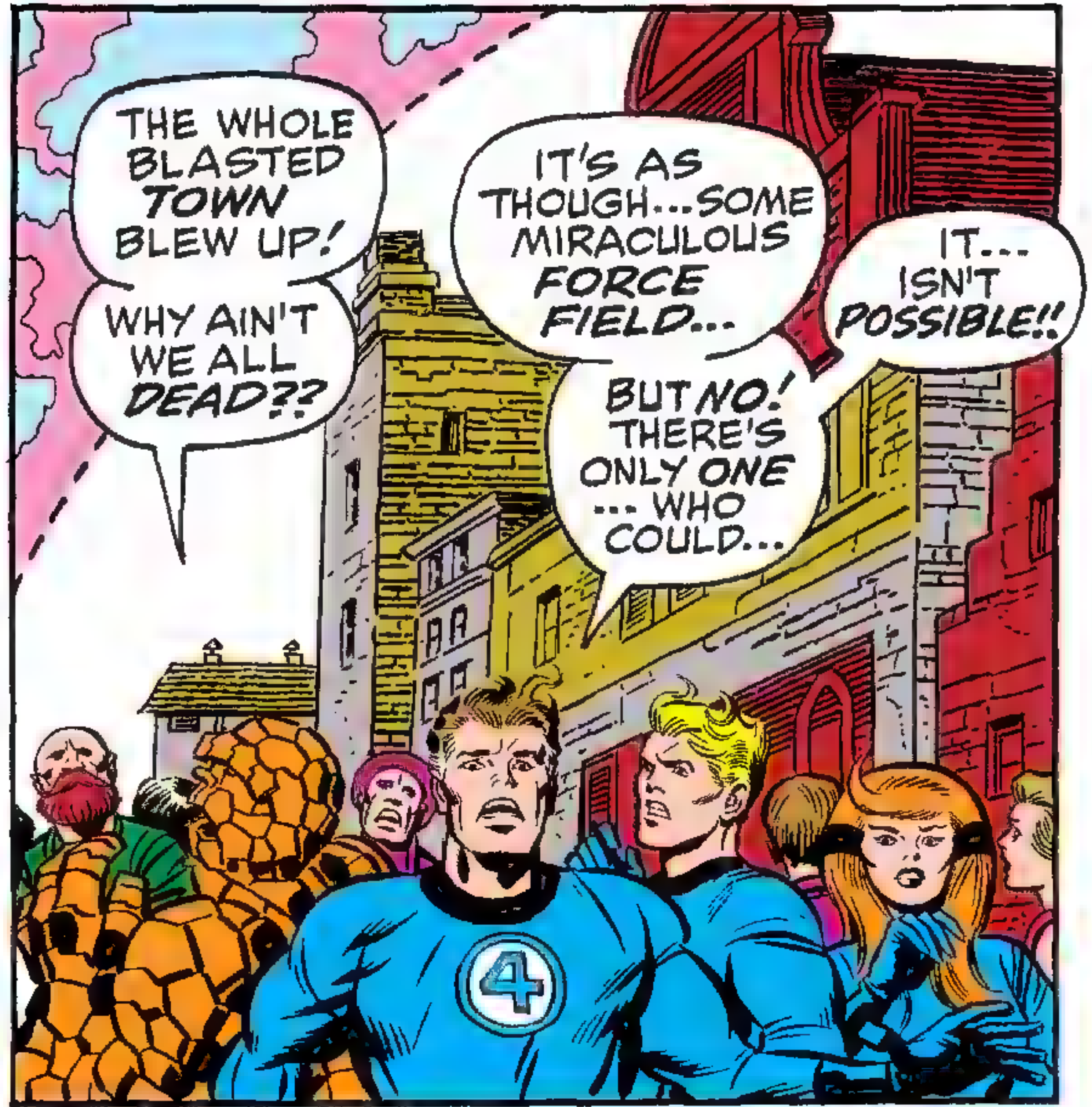
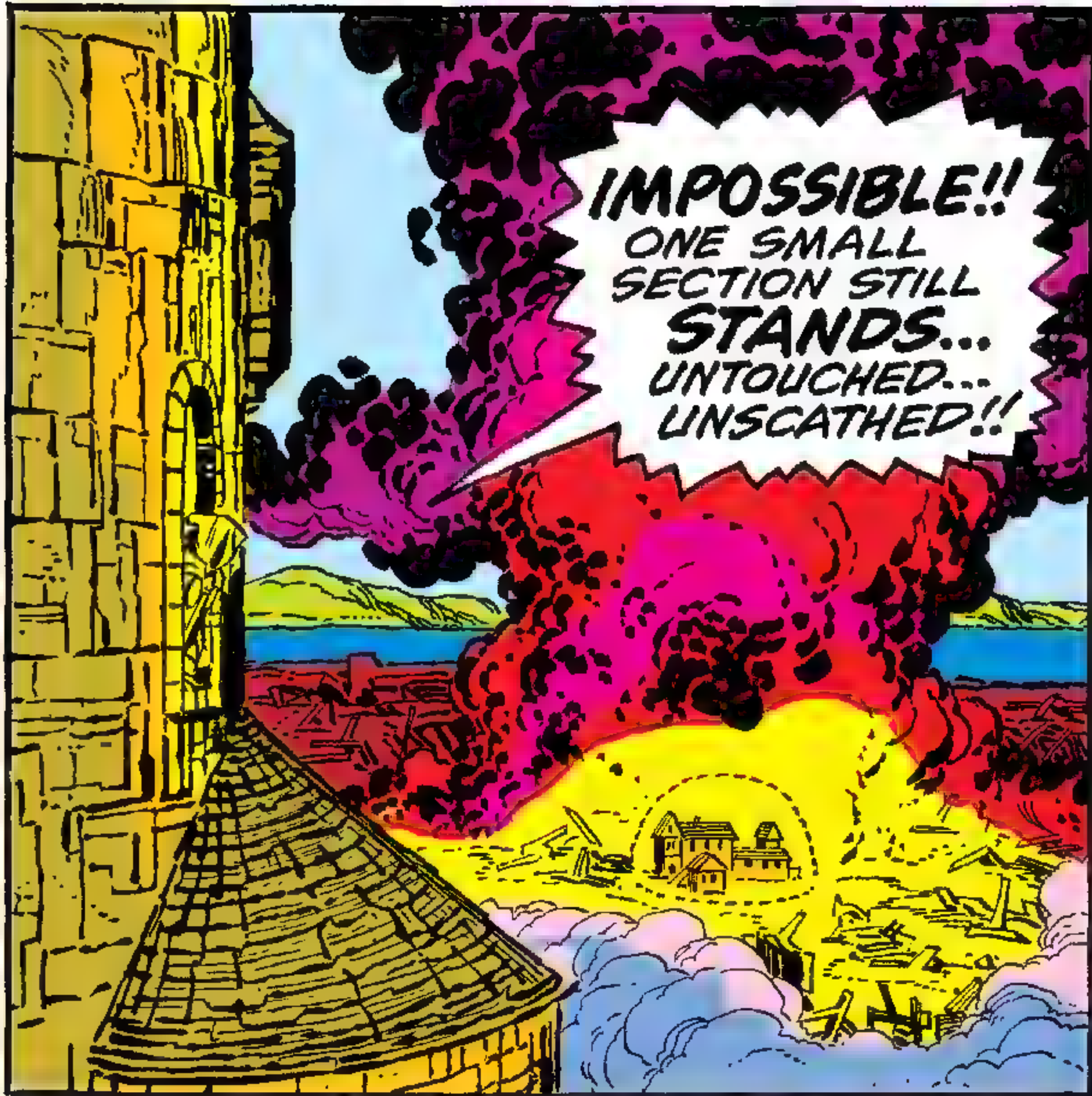
MY
SUBJECTS!!
I... **FORGOT!!**



**IT'S
TOO
LATE!**

THE
VILLAGE
IS **NO
MORE!**





FANTASTIC
FOUR

12¢
IND.

87
JUNE



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!



Fantastic

FOURTM
THE POWER
AND THE PRIDE!

POSSIBLY
THE MOST
OFF-BEAT
ENDING
OF THE YEAR!



THE **F.F.** AND **DR. DOOM** HAVE THEIR MOMENT OF TRUTH AT LAST!

"THE **POWERS** AND THE **PRIDE!**"

THANKS TO YOUR
SUDDEN *APPEARANCE*,
SUE DARLING--WE'VE
ALL *SURVIVED* THE
ATTACK OF
DR. DOOM!*

THE VILLAGE
IS A *SHAMBLES*--
DUE TO THE
EXPLOSION THAT
DOOM SET OFF!

YEAH...AN' THE
POOR SHNOOKS
WHO WUZ TRAPPED
IN THIS CRUMMY
TOWN ALL MANAGED
TA *SPLIT* BY NOW!

IF NOT FOR
YOUR SISTER'S
INVISIBLE
FORCE SHIELD
--THE VICTORY
MIGHT HAVE
BEEN *HIS!*

BUT WE'RE
TOGETHER
AGAIN, CRY--
AND THAT'S
ALL THAT
COUNTS!

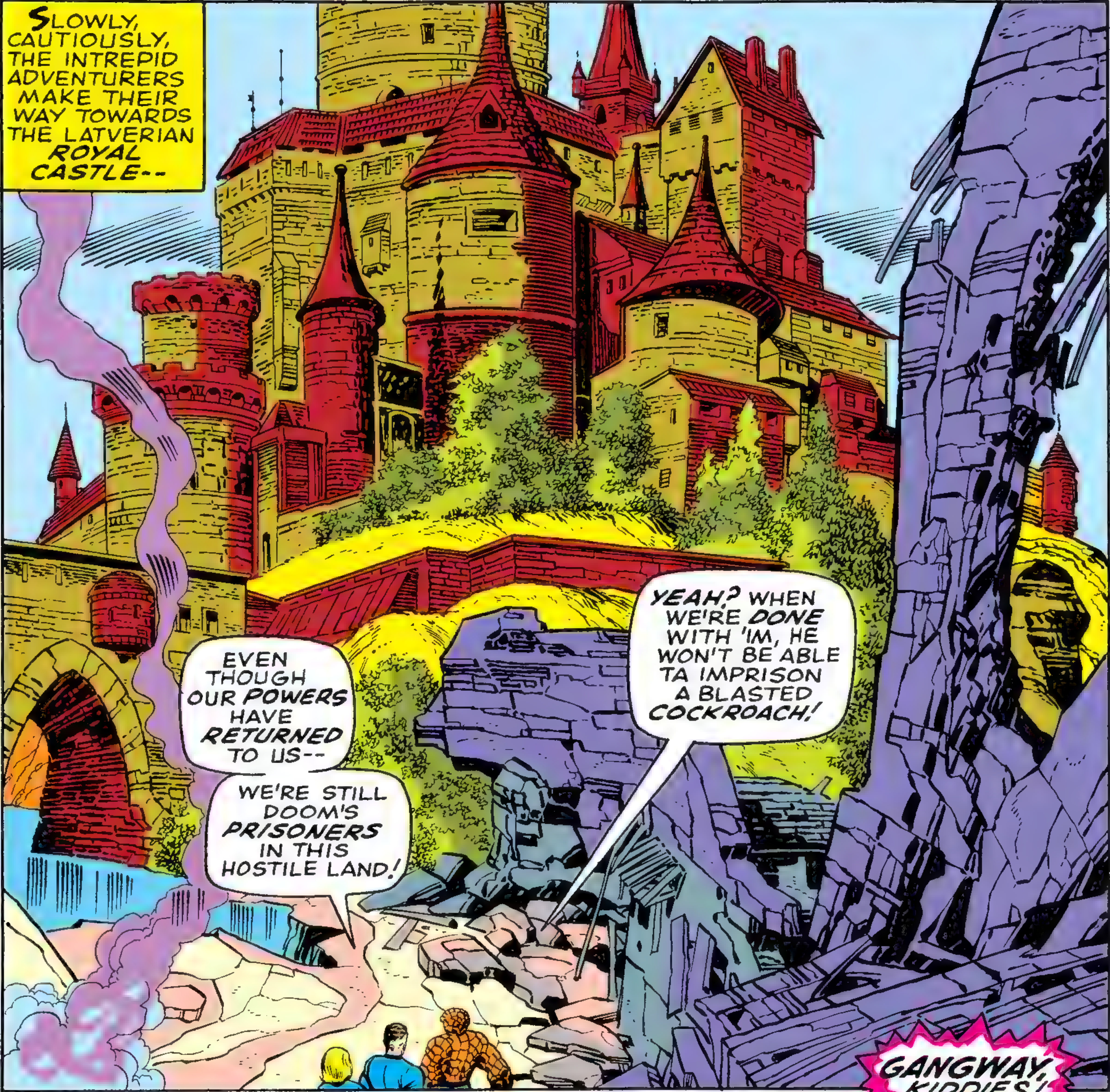
*IT ALL
HAPPENED
LAST *ISH!*
IF YOU MISSED
IT, HANG LOOSE--
WE'LL FILL IN
THE PIECES
AS WE GO
JOGGIN' ALONG--!

A PULSE-POUNDING PASTICHE OF
PHILOSOPHICAL PROFUNDITY BY:
STAN^(THE MAN) **LEE** and **JACK**^(KING) **KIRBY**

JOE SINNOTT,
EMBELLISHMENT

ARTIE SIMEK,,
LETTERING

SLOWLY, CAUTIOUSLY, THE INTREPID ADVENTURERS MAKE THEIR WAY TOWARDS THE LATVERIAN ROYAL CASTLE--

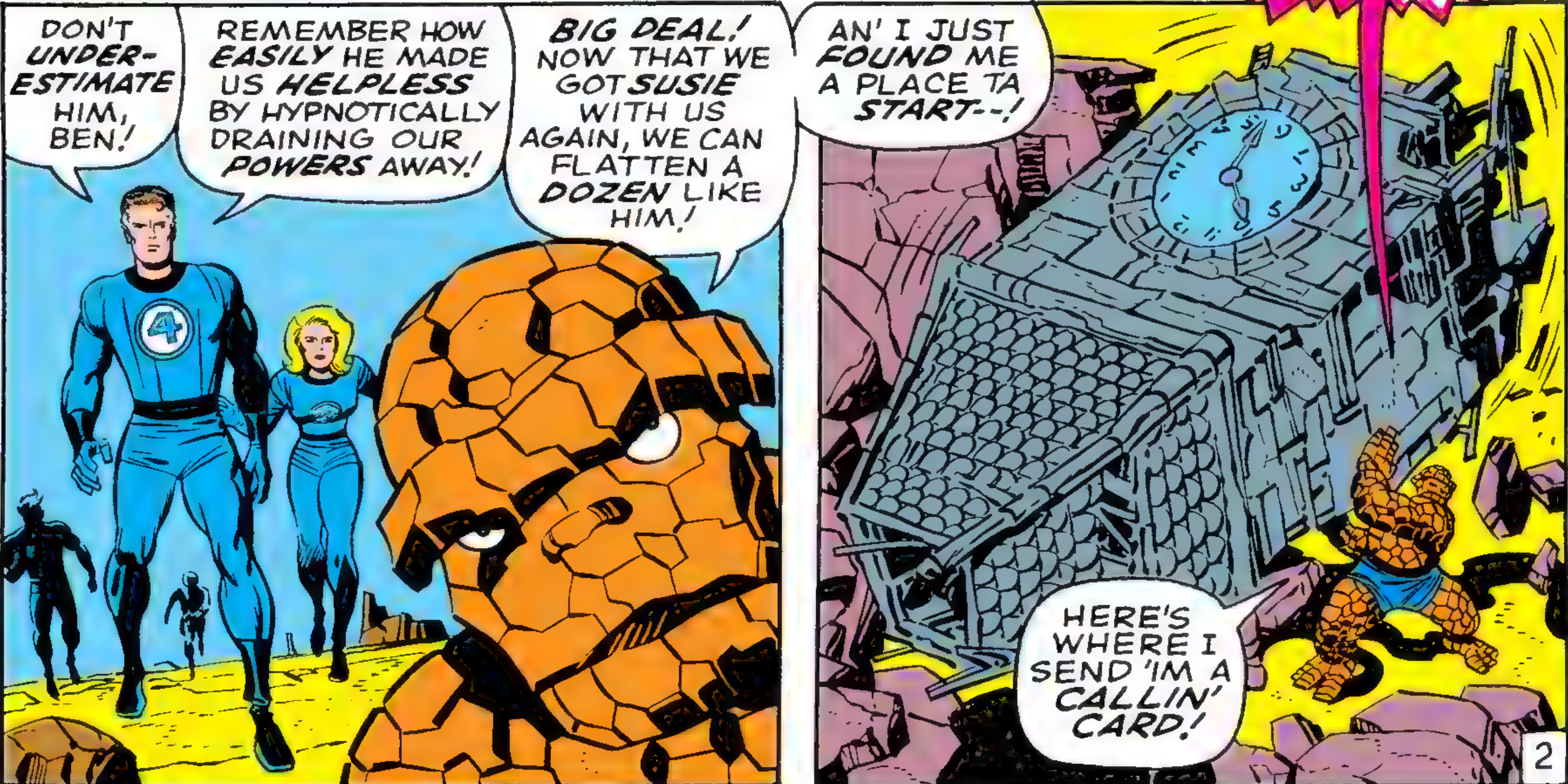


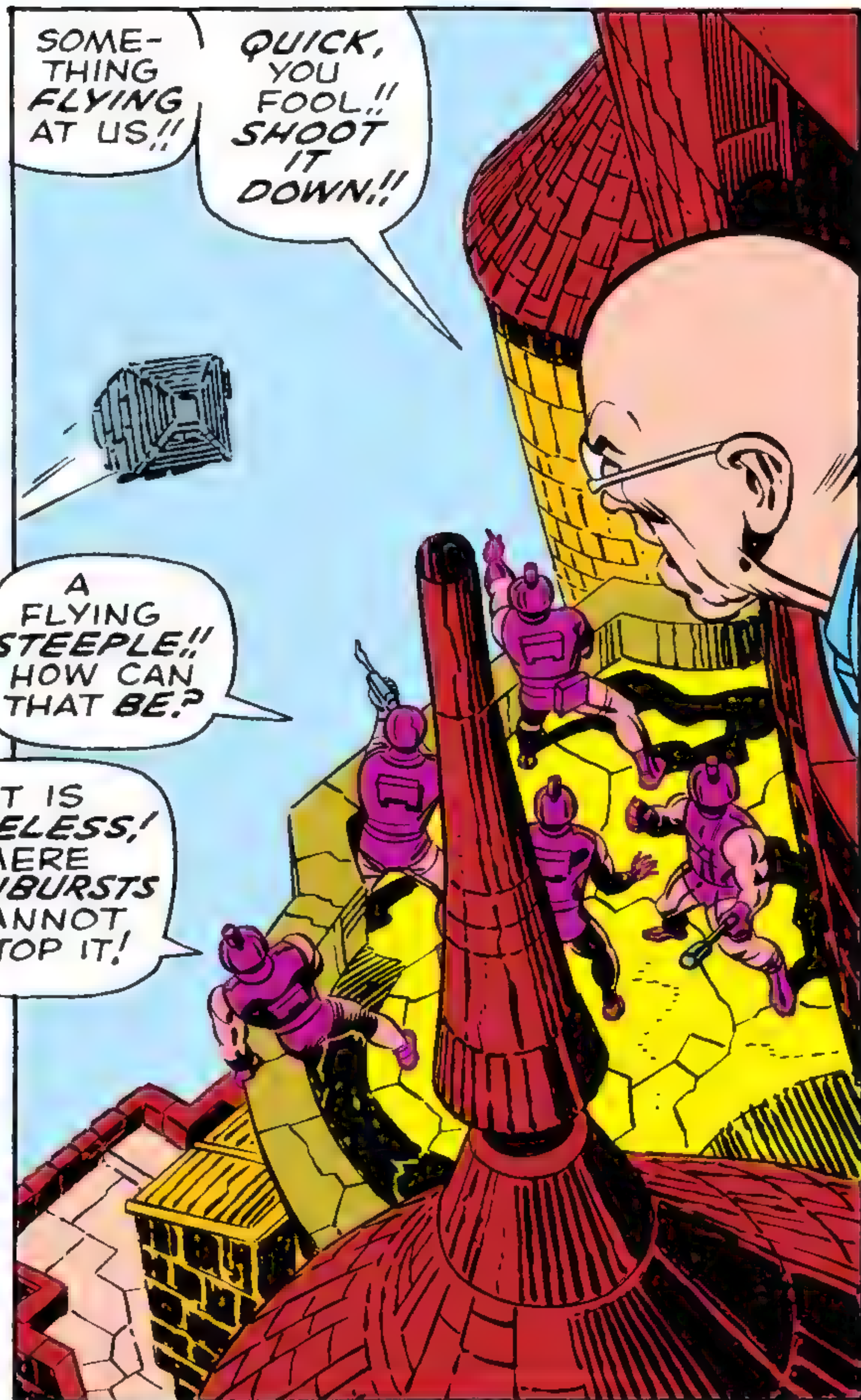
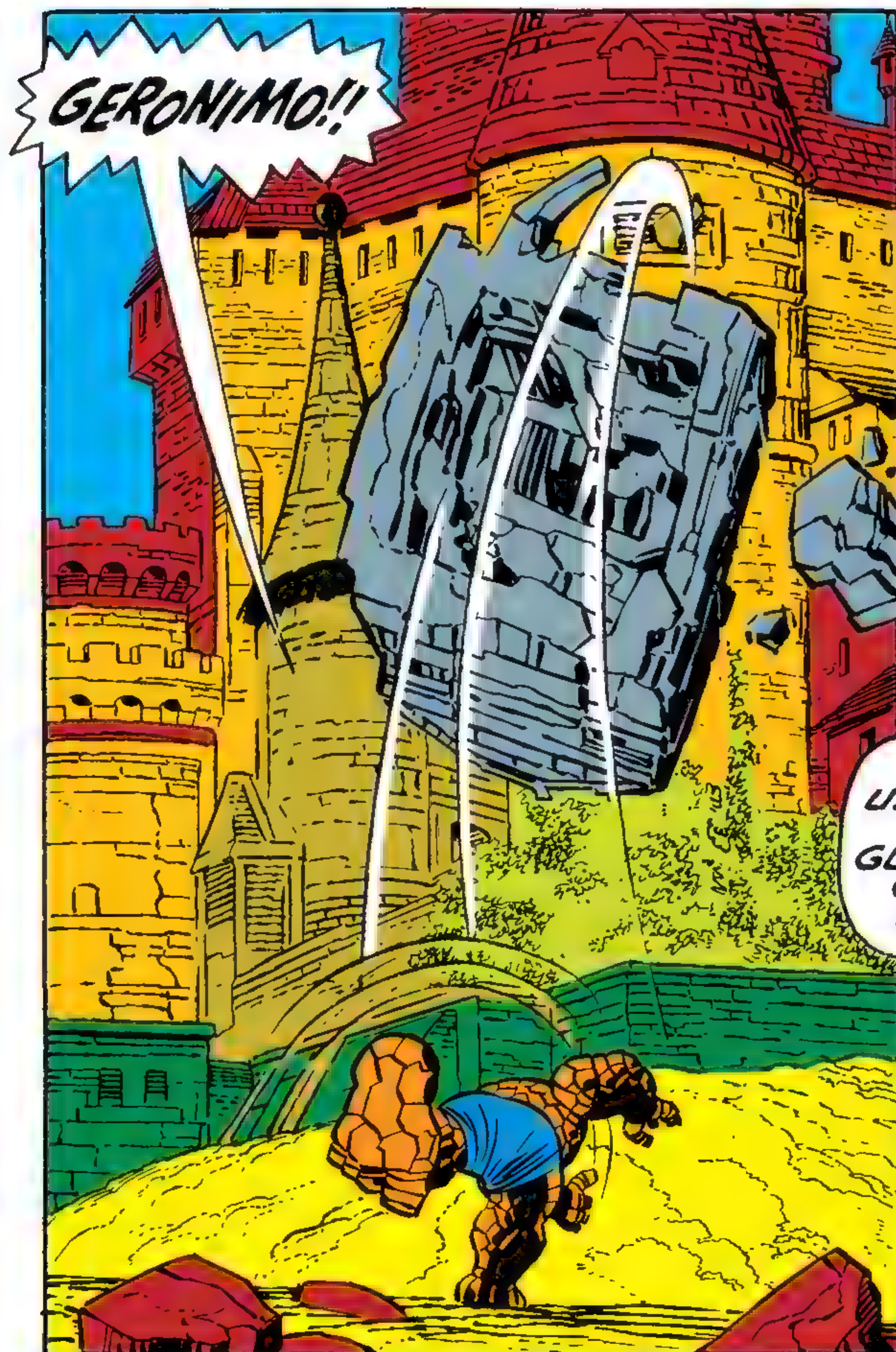
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE HIM, BEN!

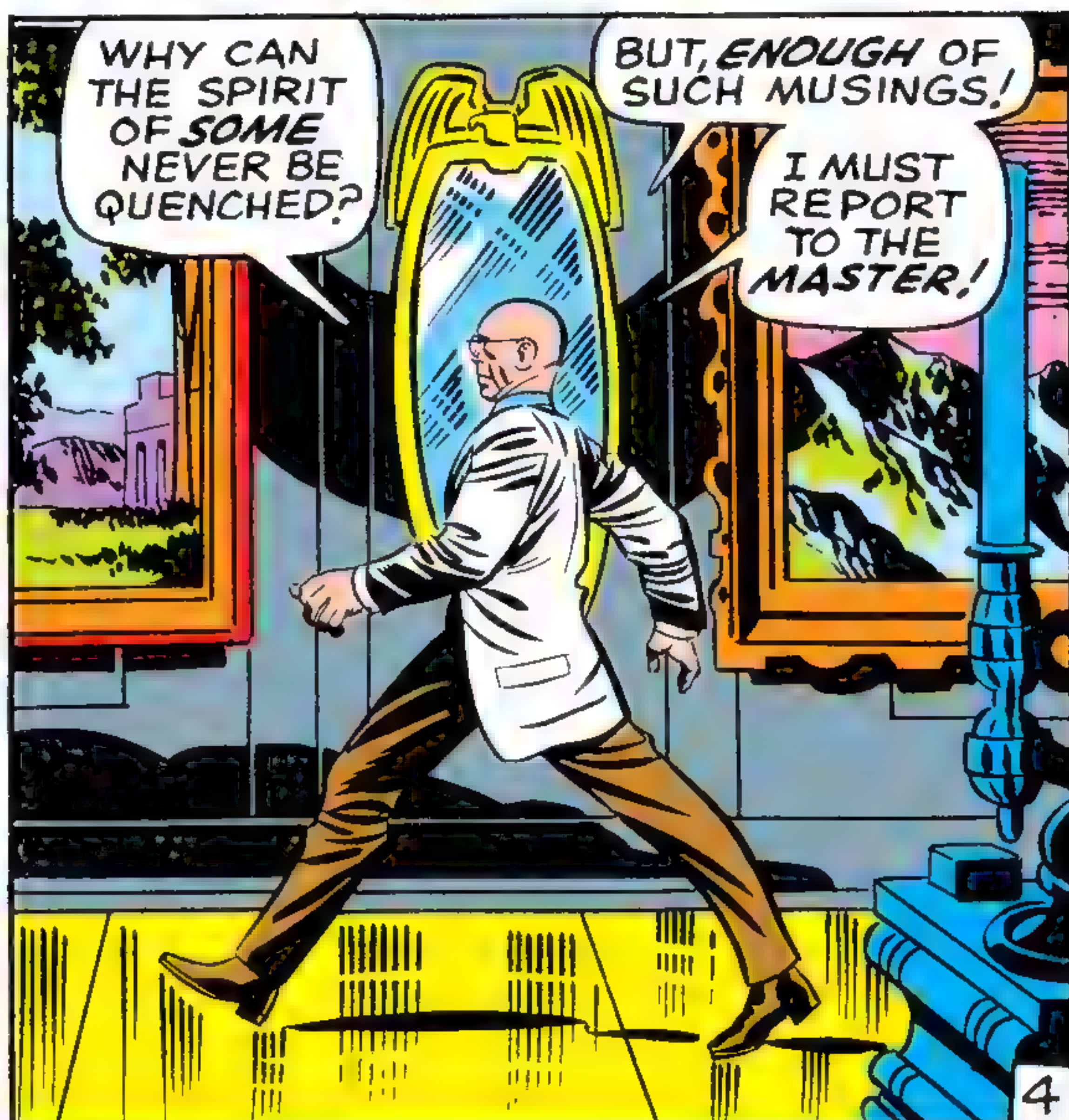
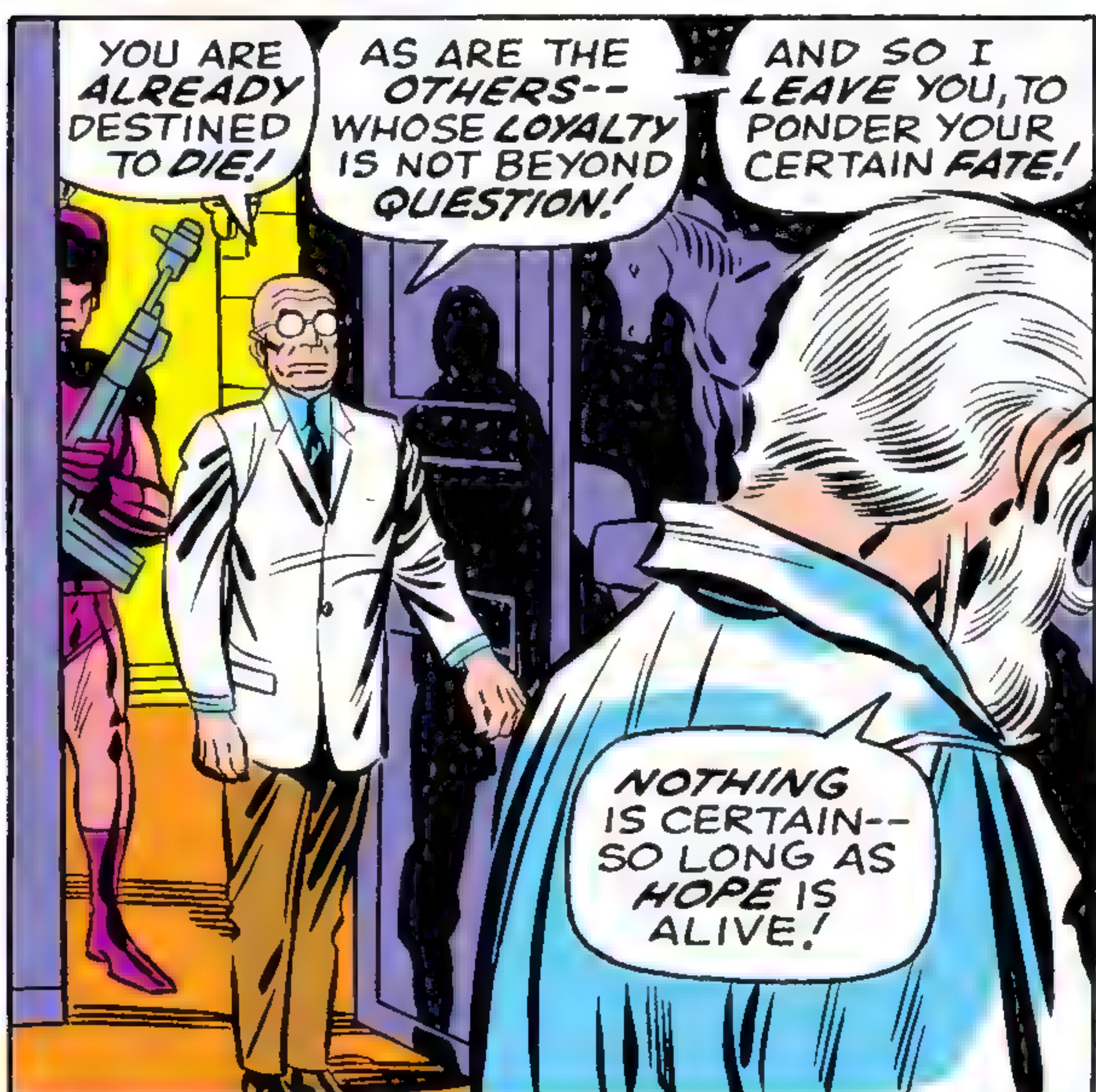
REMEMBER HOW EASILY HE MADE US HELPLESS BY HYPNOTICALLY DRAINING OUR POWERS AWAY!

BIG DEAL! NOW THAT WE GOT SUSIE WITH US AGAIN, WE CAN FLATTEN A DOZEN LIKE HIM!

AN' I JUST FOUND ME A PLACE TA START--!







EXCELLENCY!
WE MUST TAKE
EVERY
PRECAUTION!

THE **FANTASTIC
FOUR** STILL
LIVE! THEY ARE
ATTACKING THE
CASTLE!

SILENCE,
YOU SNIVELLING
JACKANAPE!!

AM I NOT
AWARE OF
ALL THAT
OCCURS??

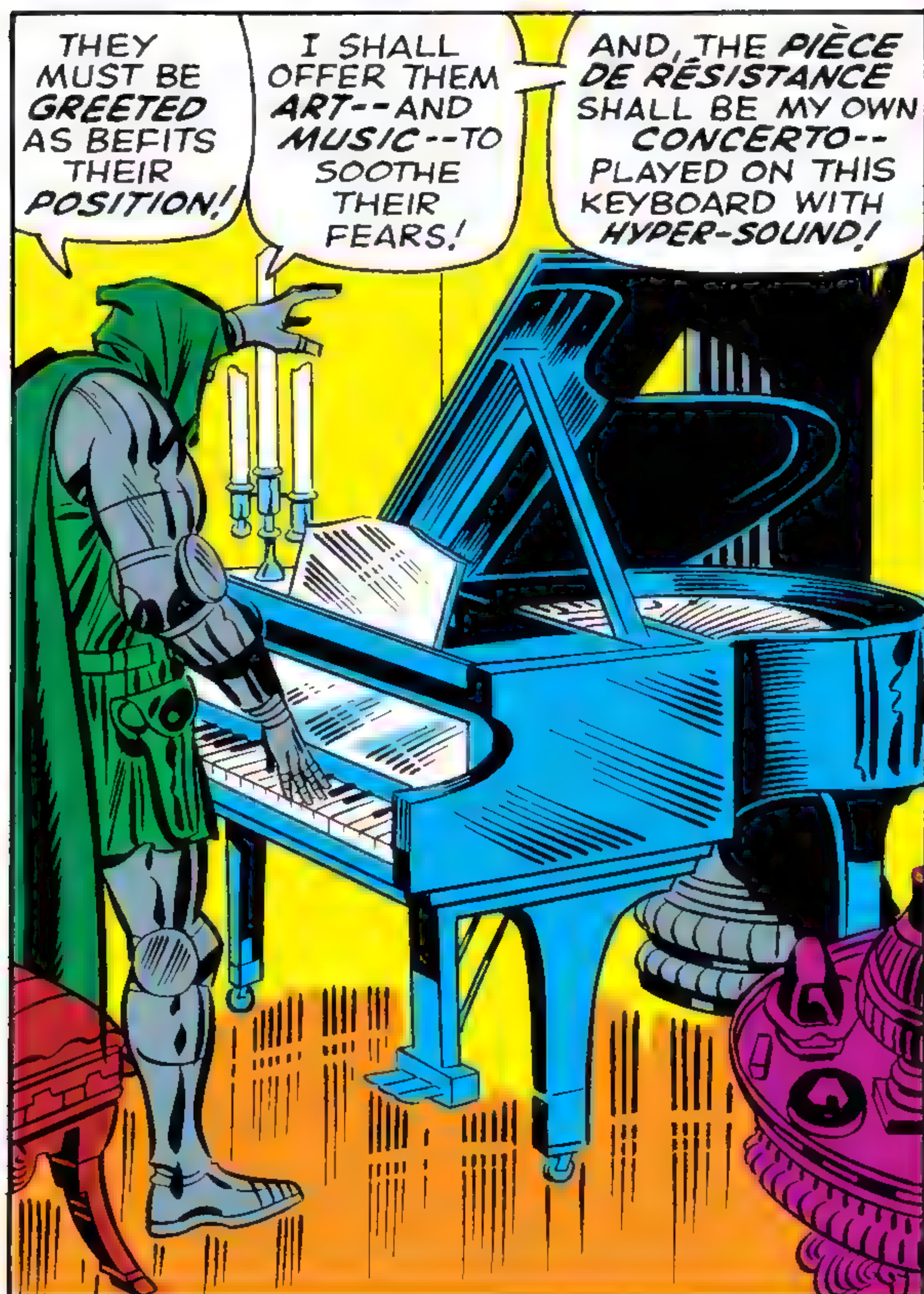
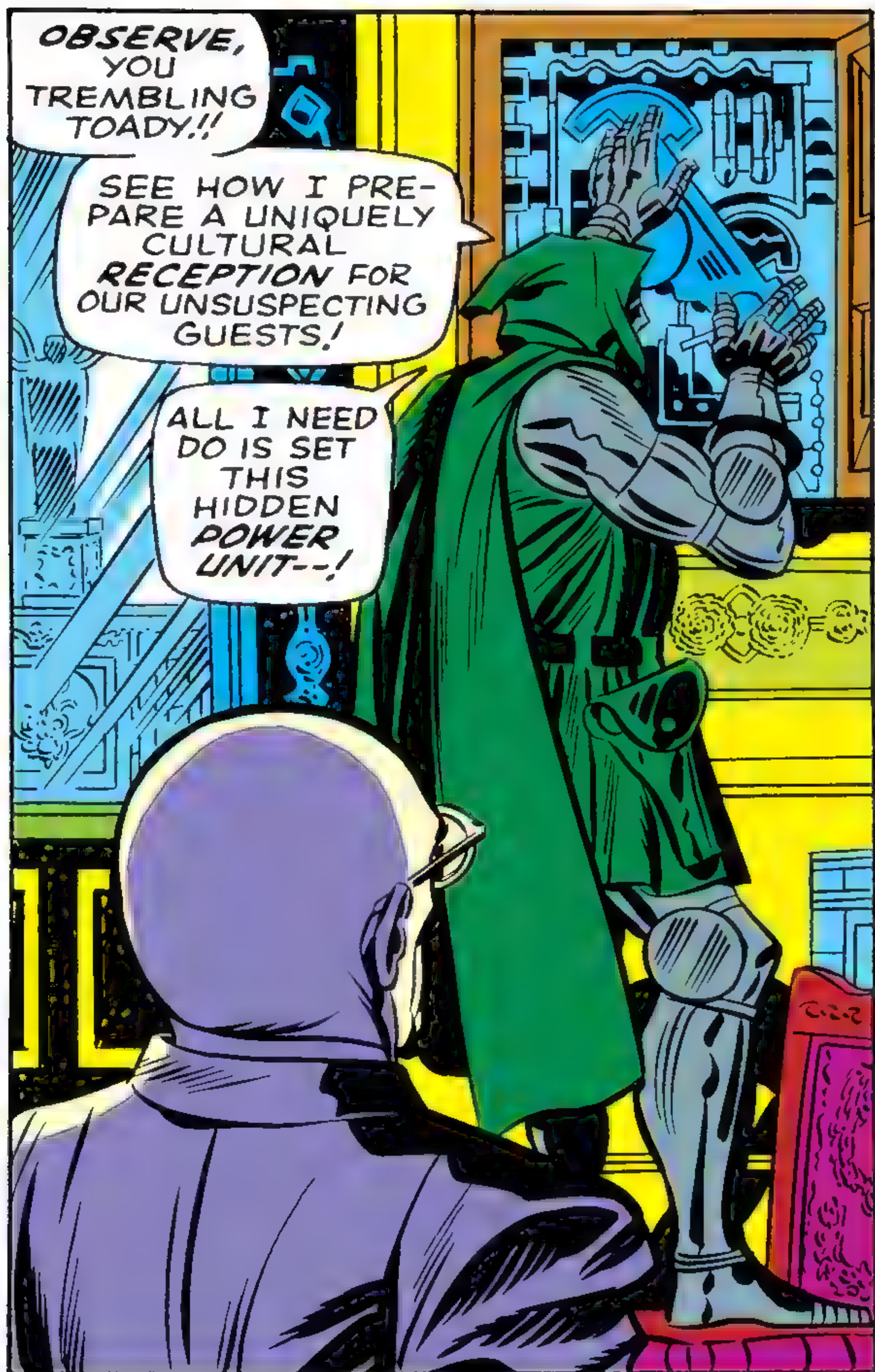
THEY WERE **RESCUED**
AT THE LAST POSSIBLE
MOMENT BECAUSE I
NEGLECTED **ONE** SMALL
DETAIL!

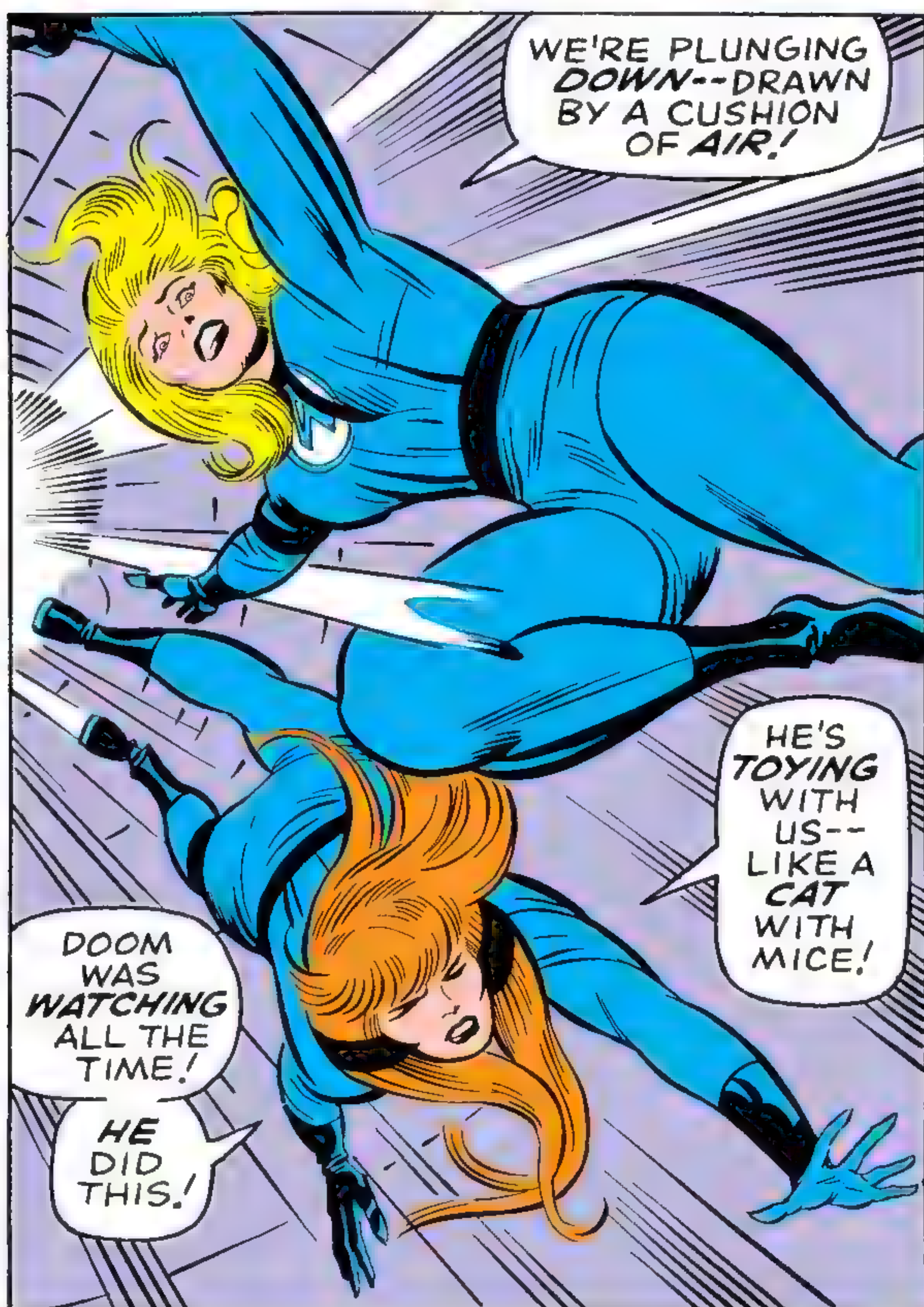
I DID NOT **EXPECT**
THE ARRIVAL OF
SUE RICHARDS, THE
WIFE OF MY
ACCURSED
ARCHFOE!

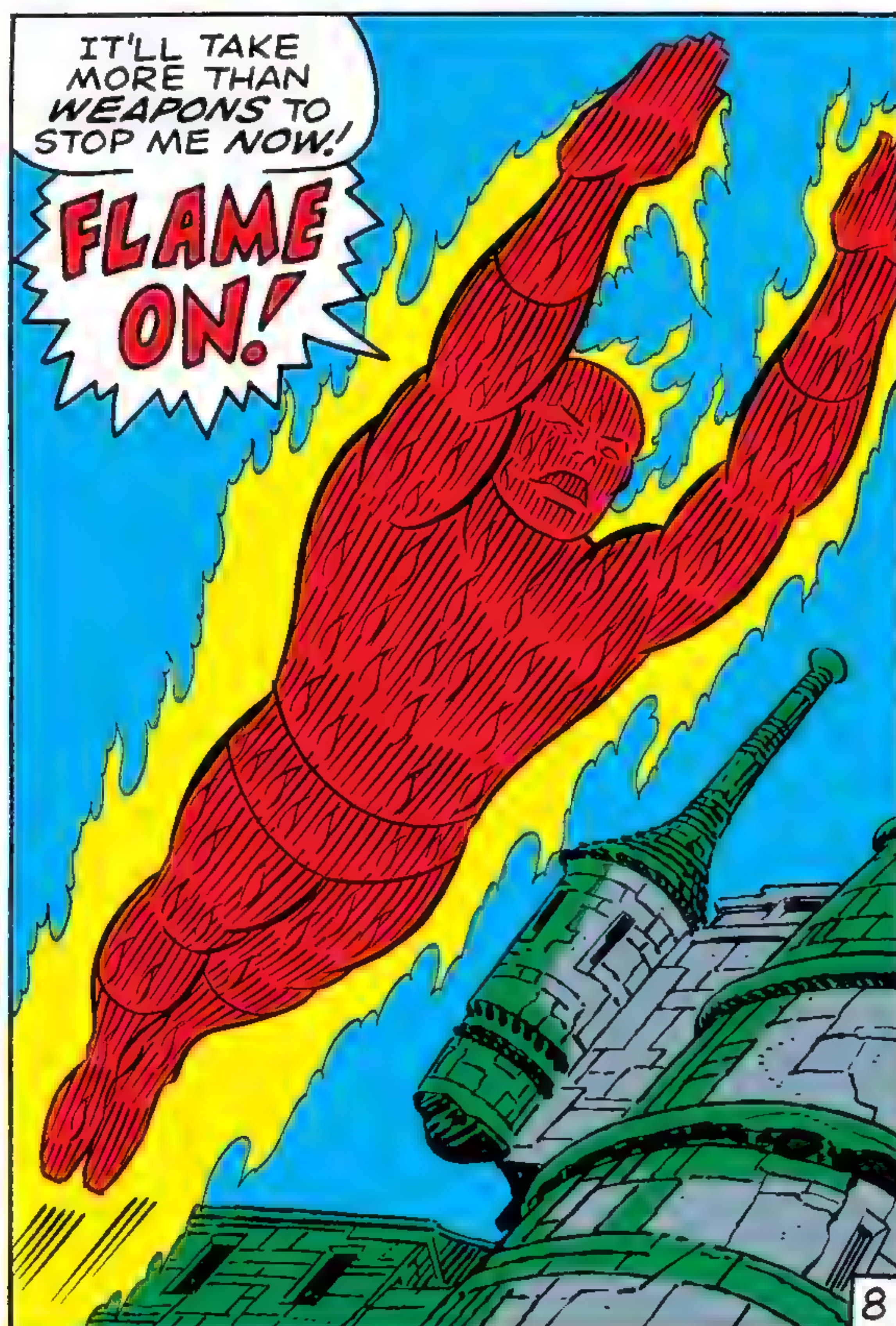
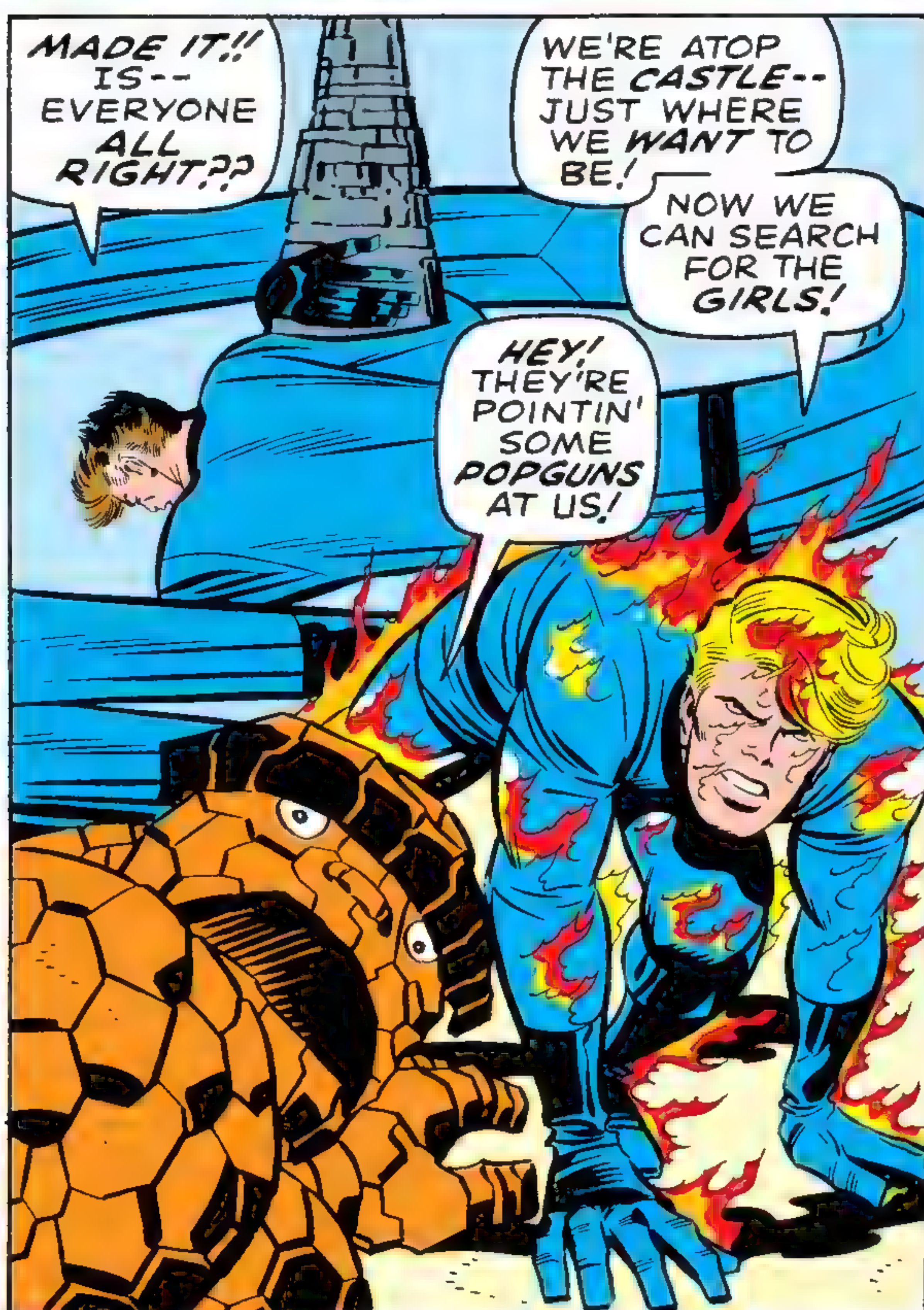
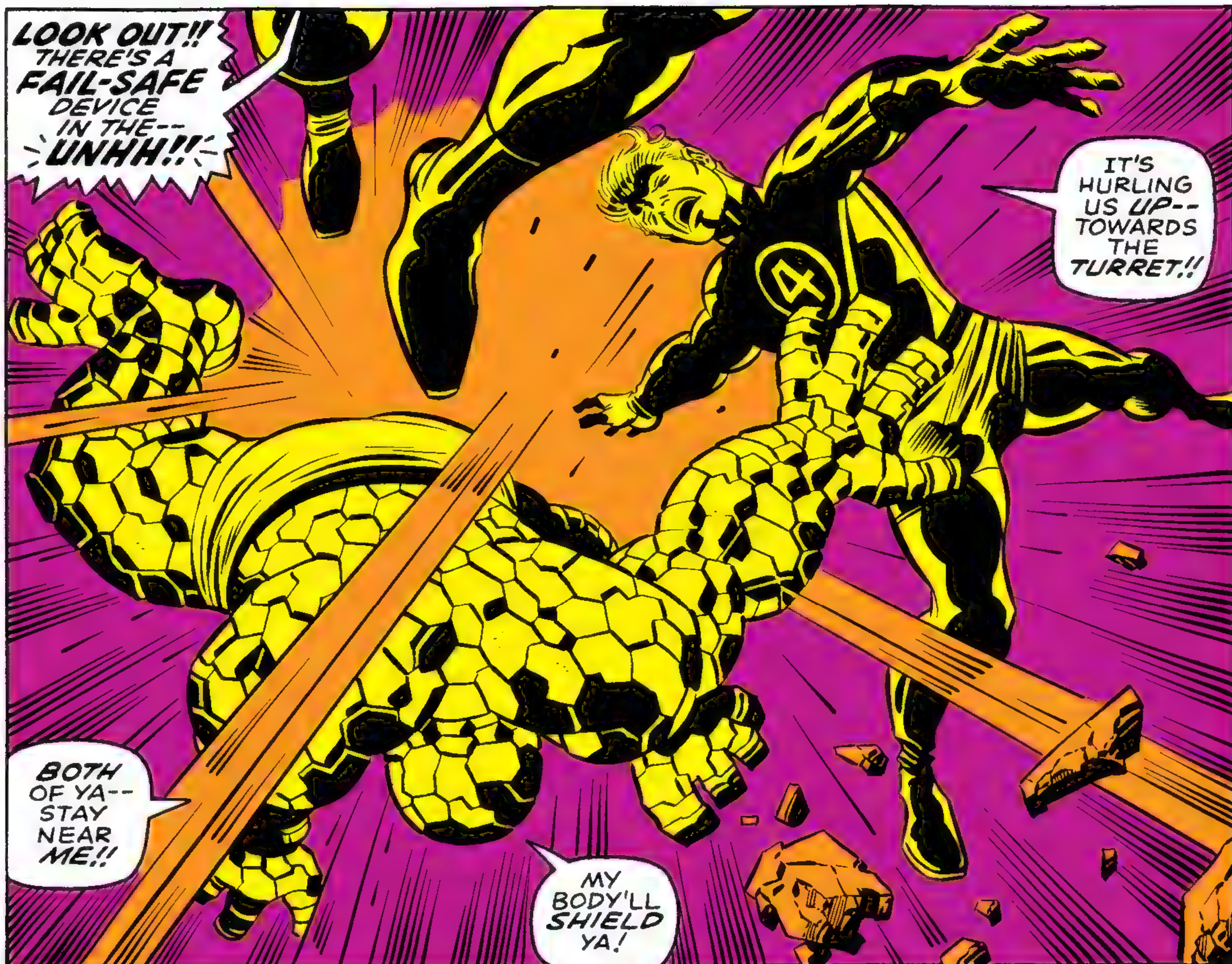
ONLY HER
MUCH-
VAUNTED
**INVISIBLE
SHIELD**
SAVED THEM
FROM THE
EXPLOSION!

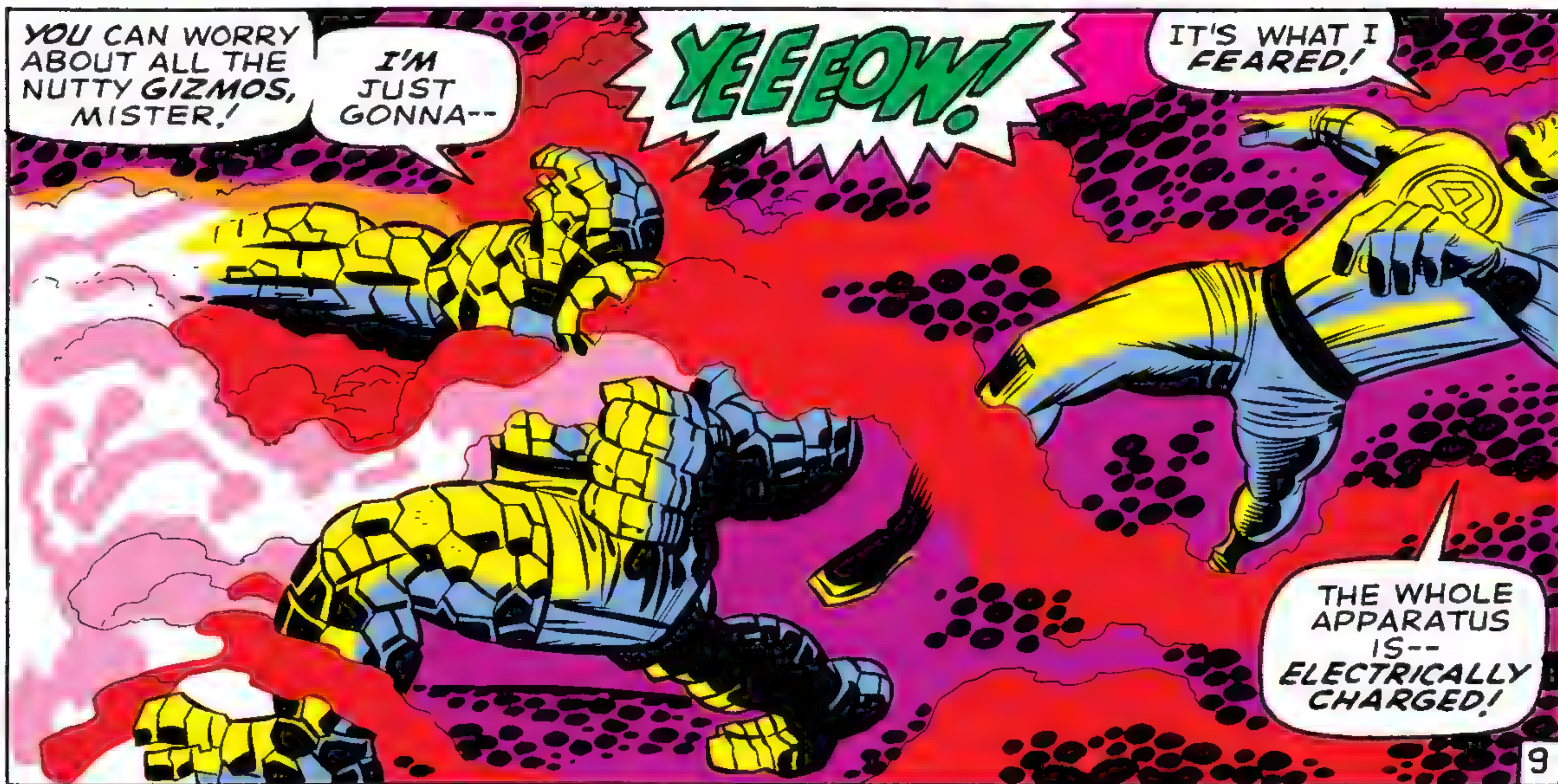
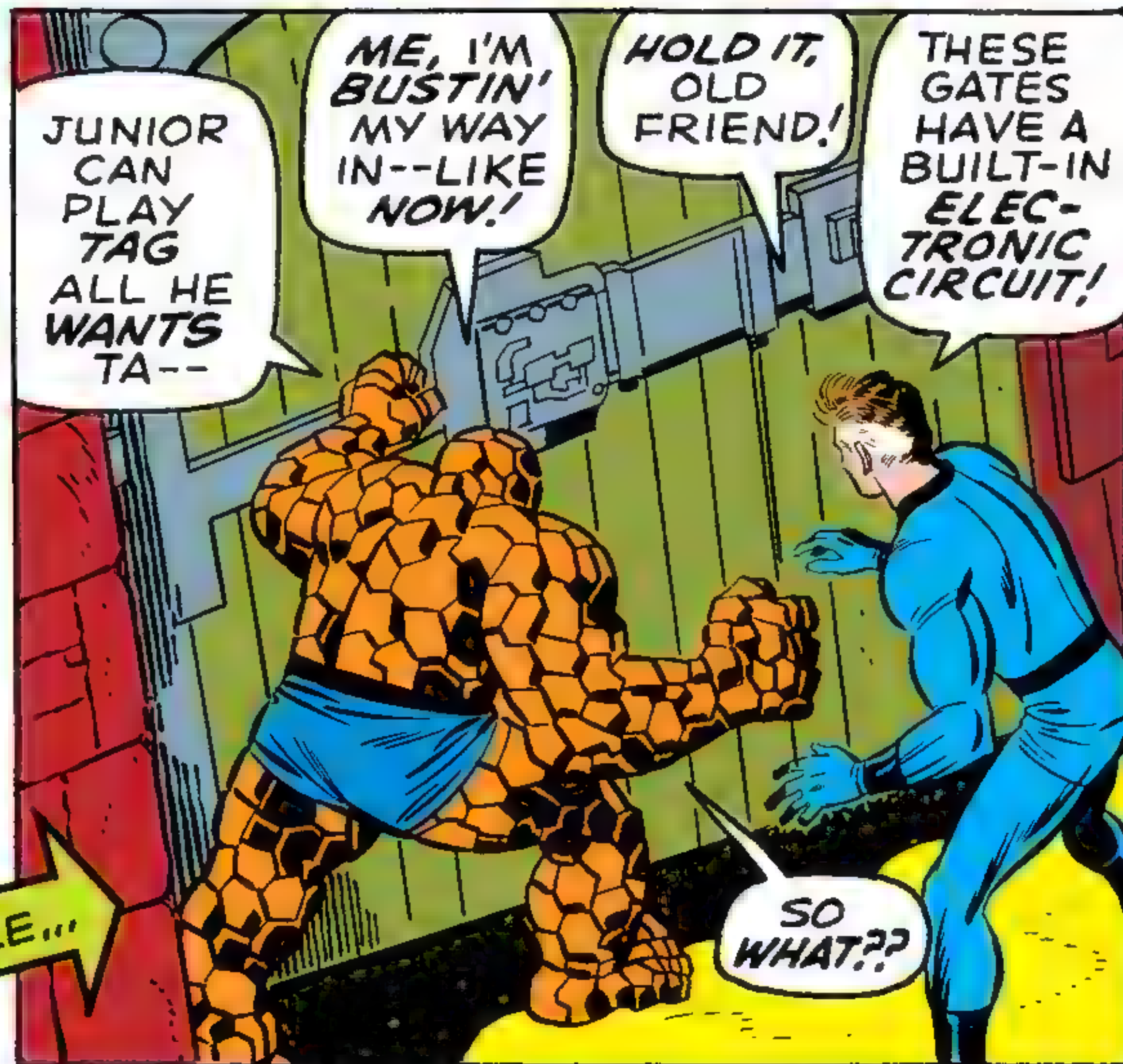
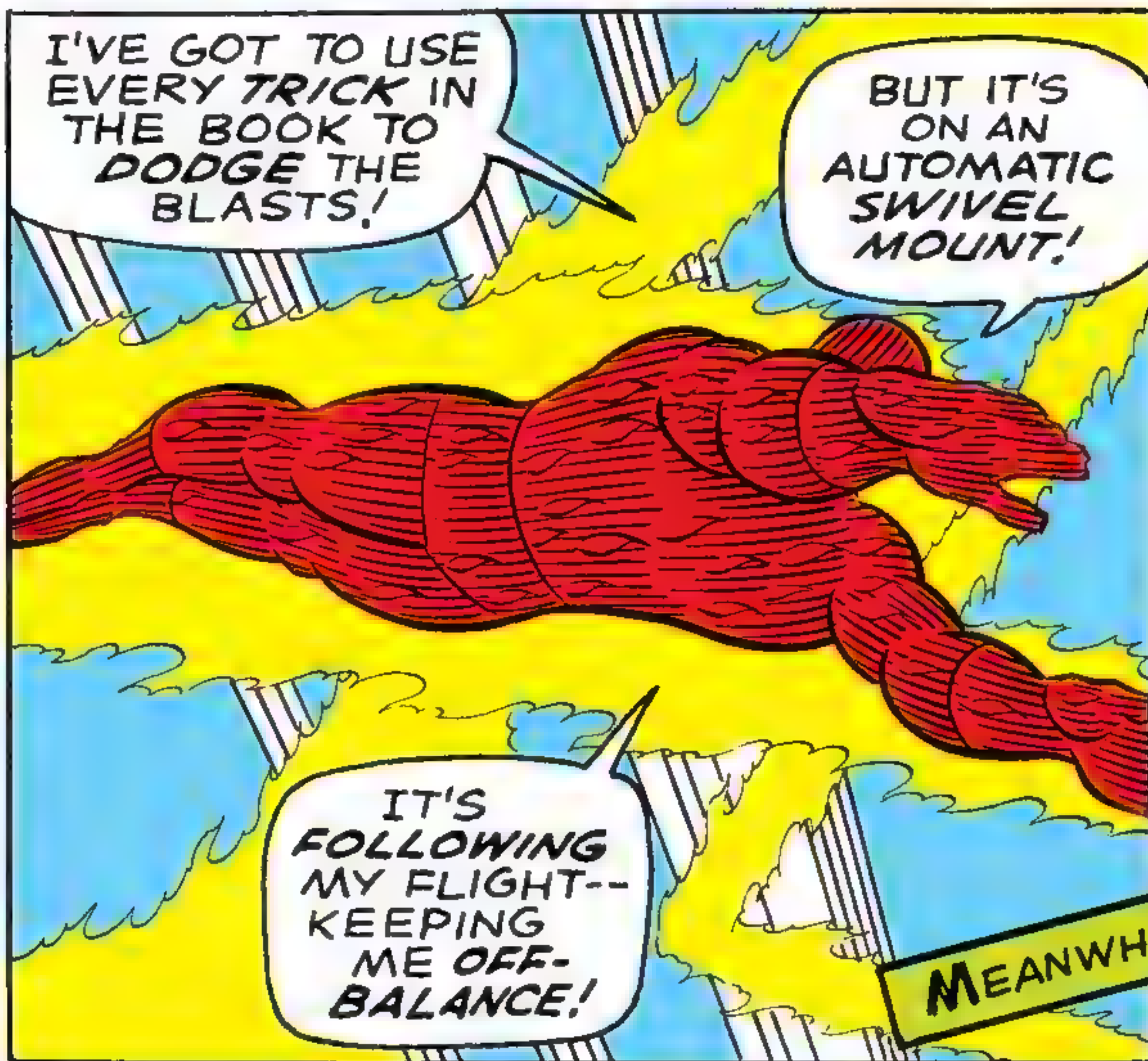
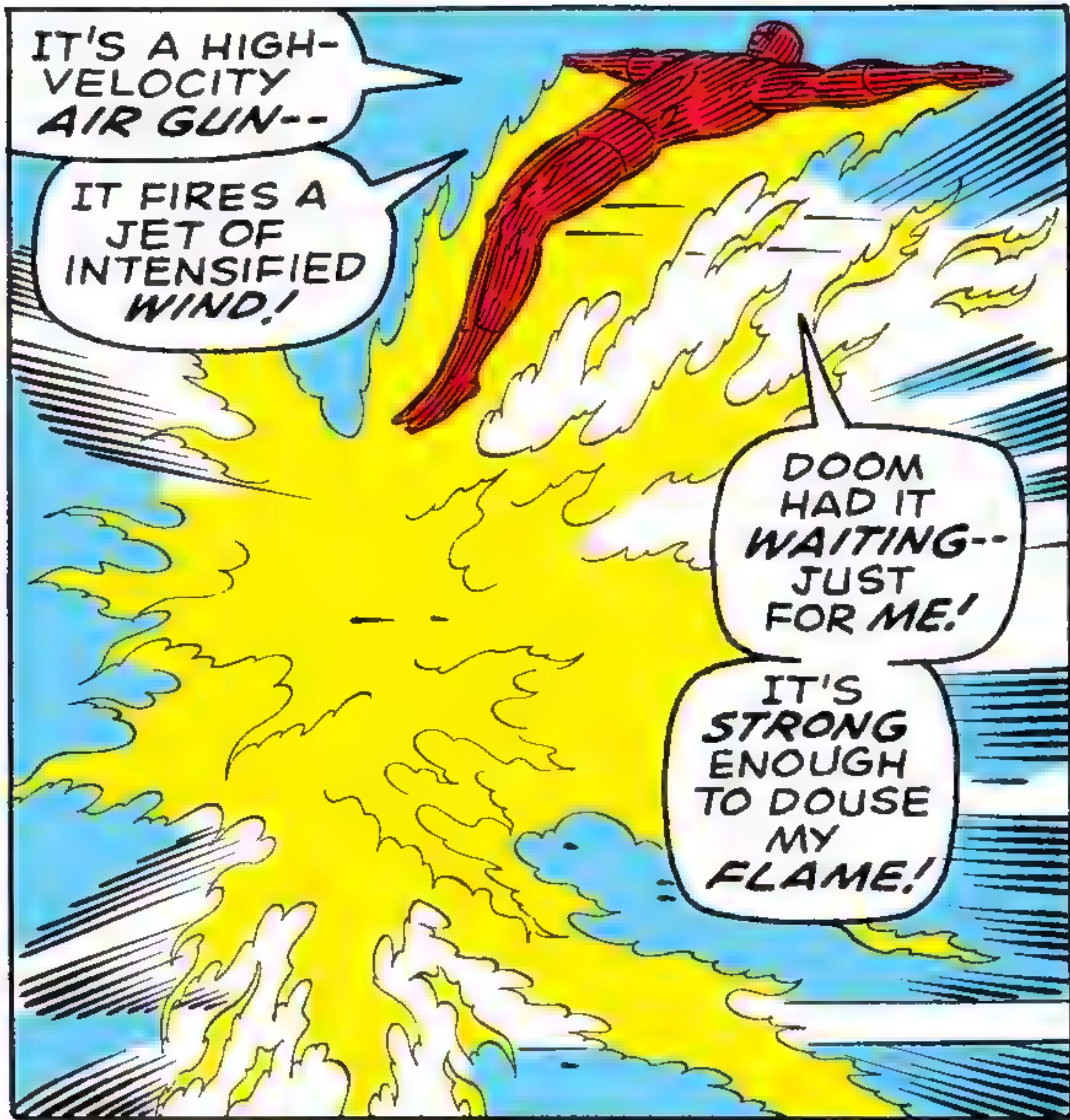
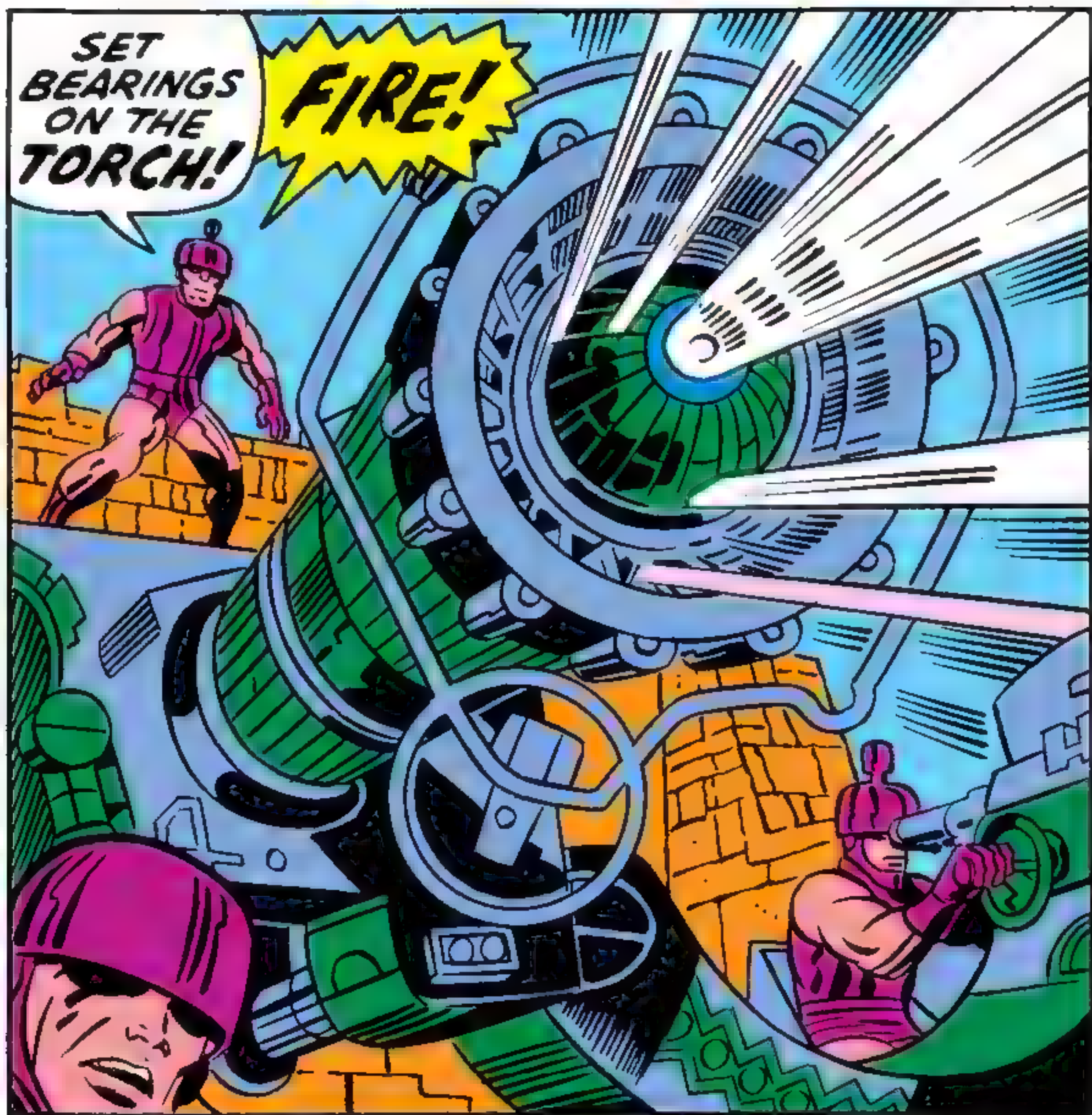
BUT, THEY
STILL ARE
CAPTIVES
IN THE
KINGDOM
OF
DR. DOOM!

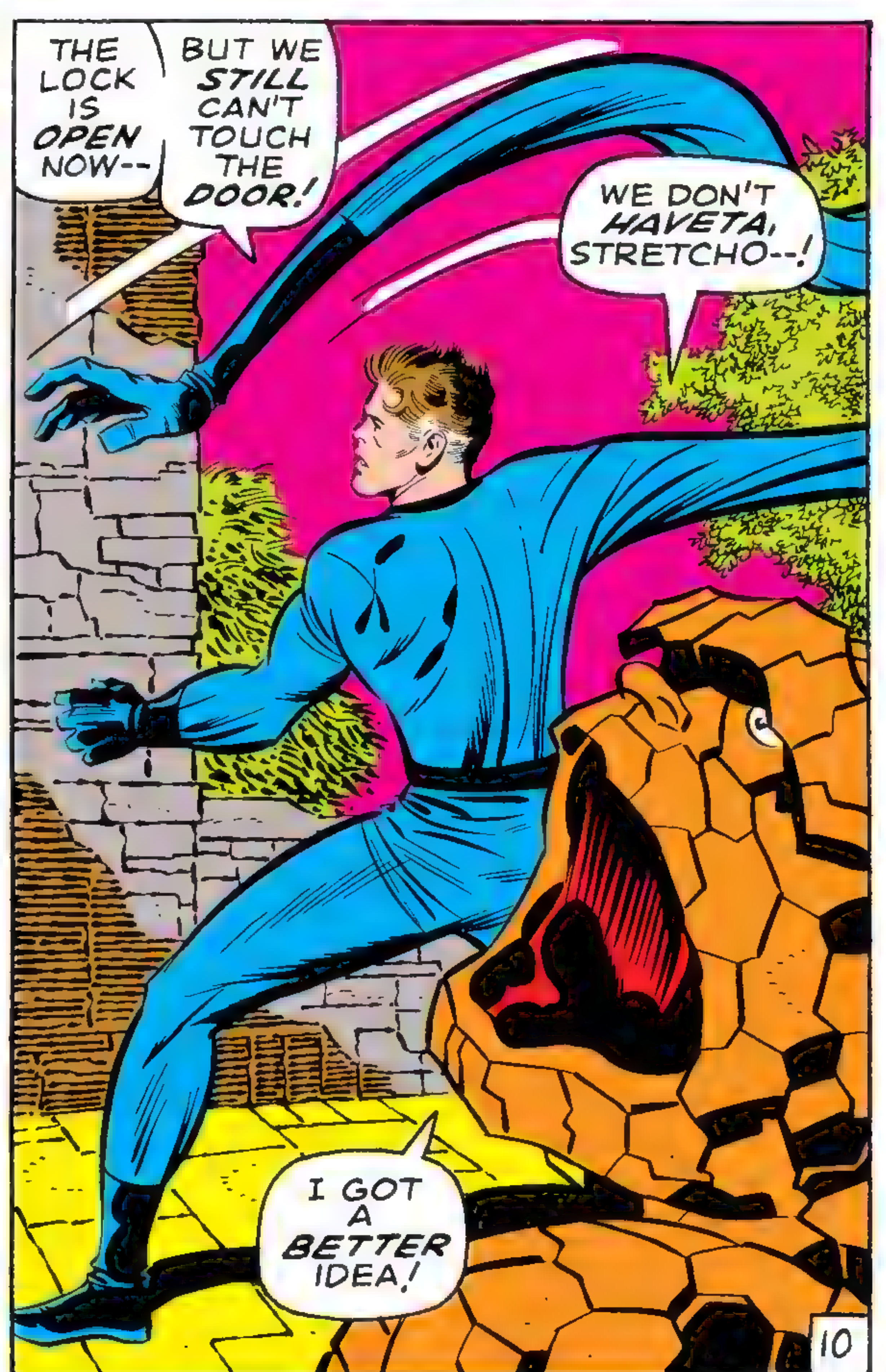
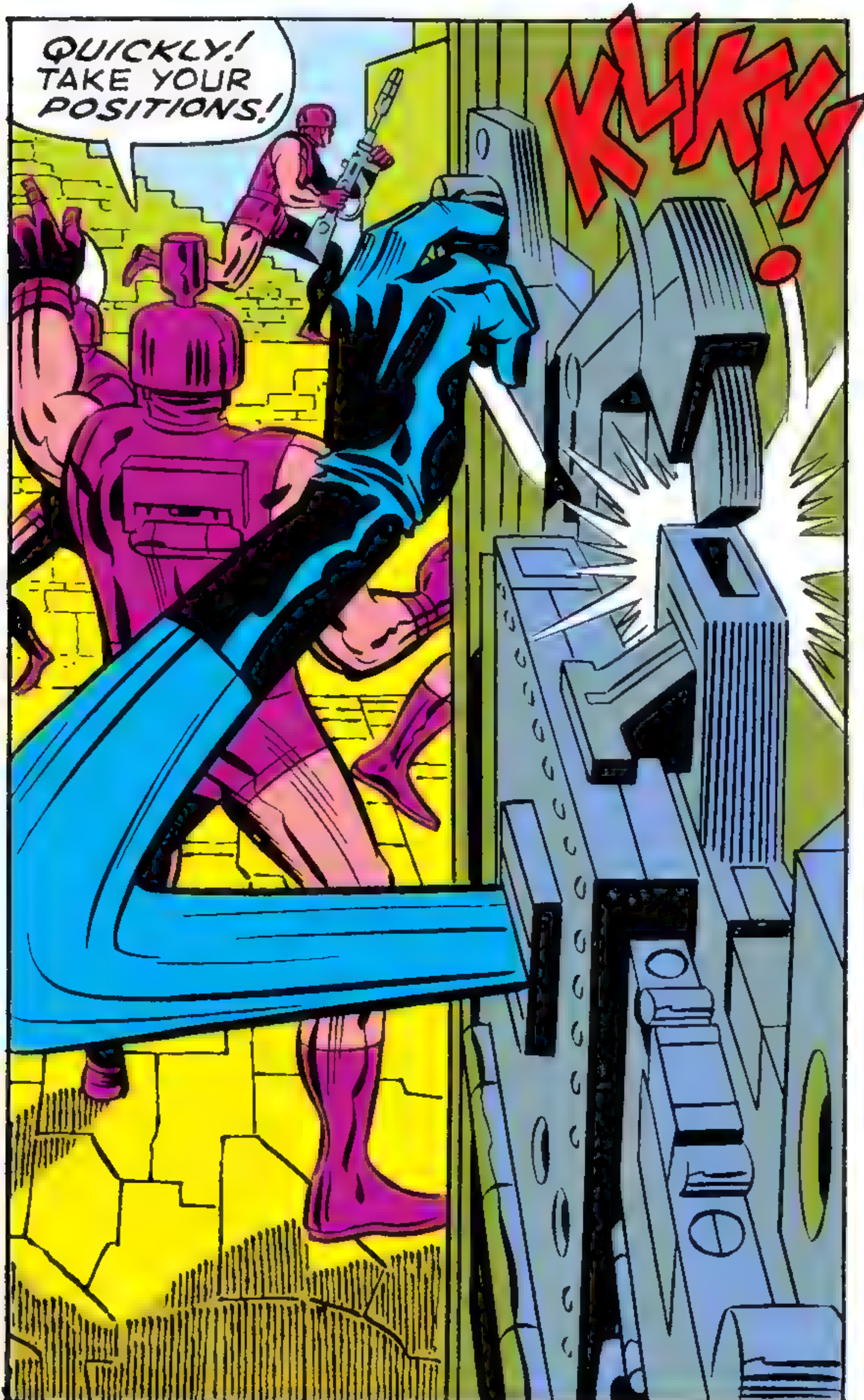
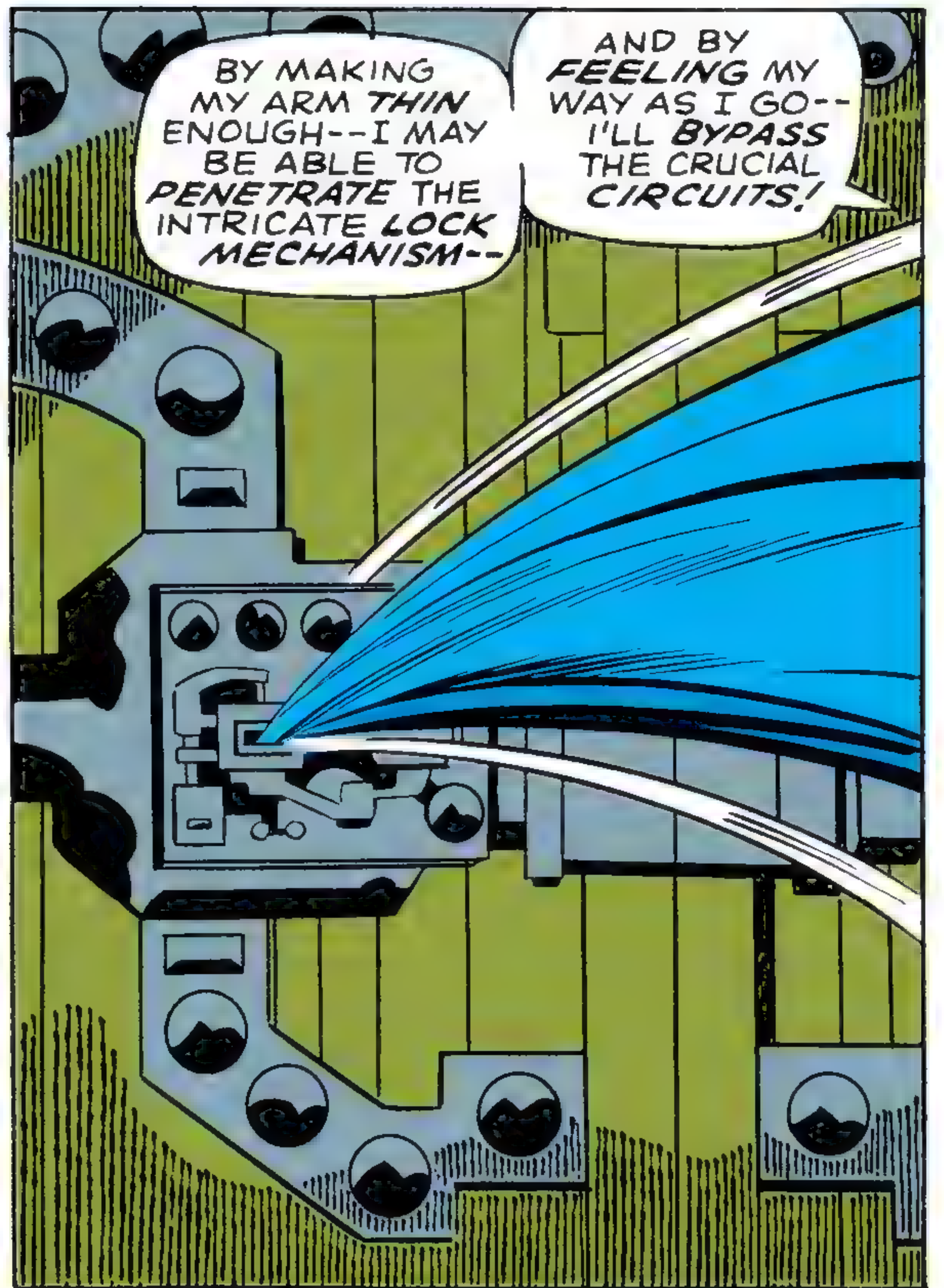
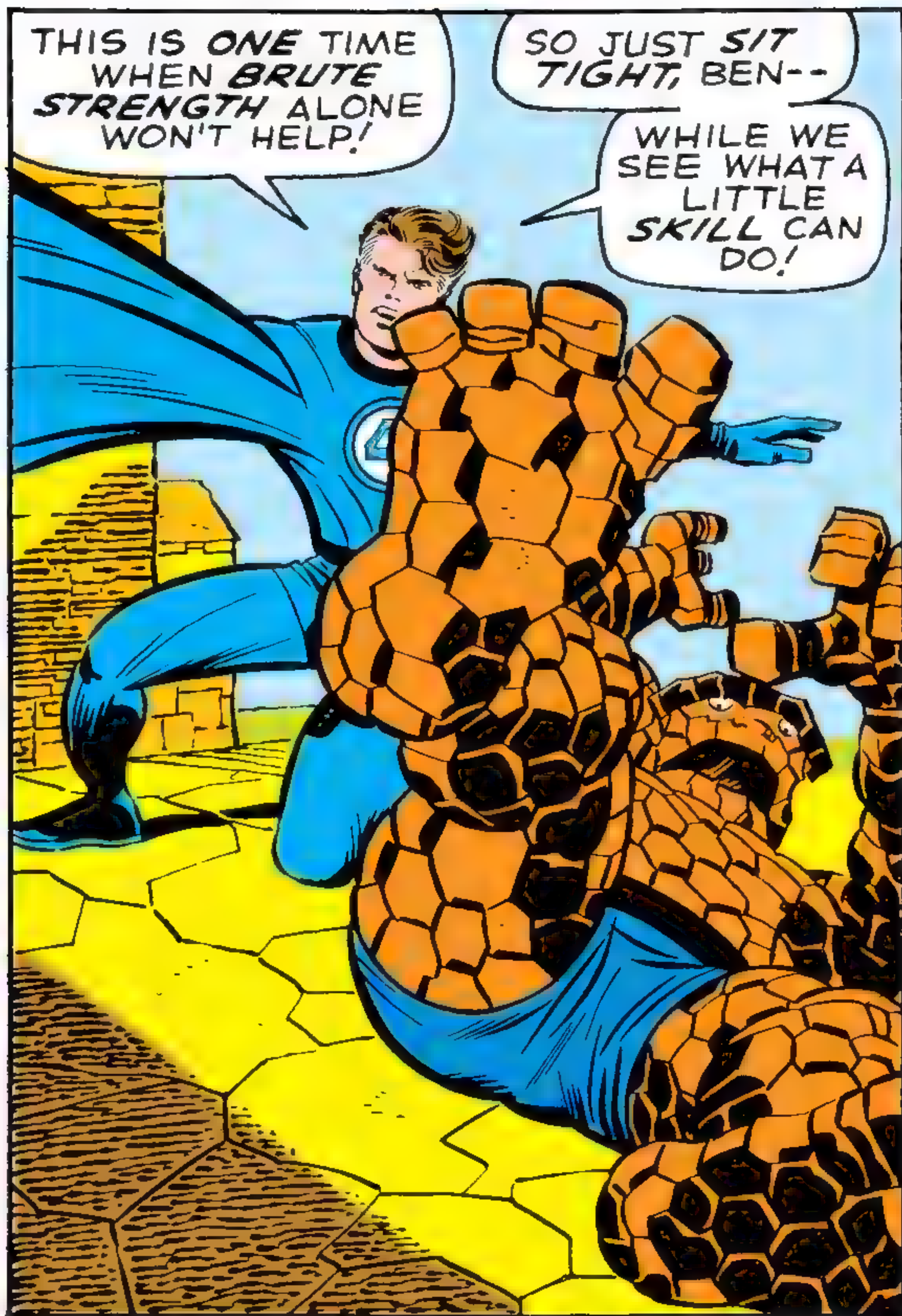
IT SHALL
STILL BE
I
WHO STRIKE
THE **FINAL
BLOW!**









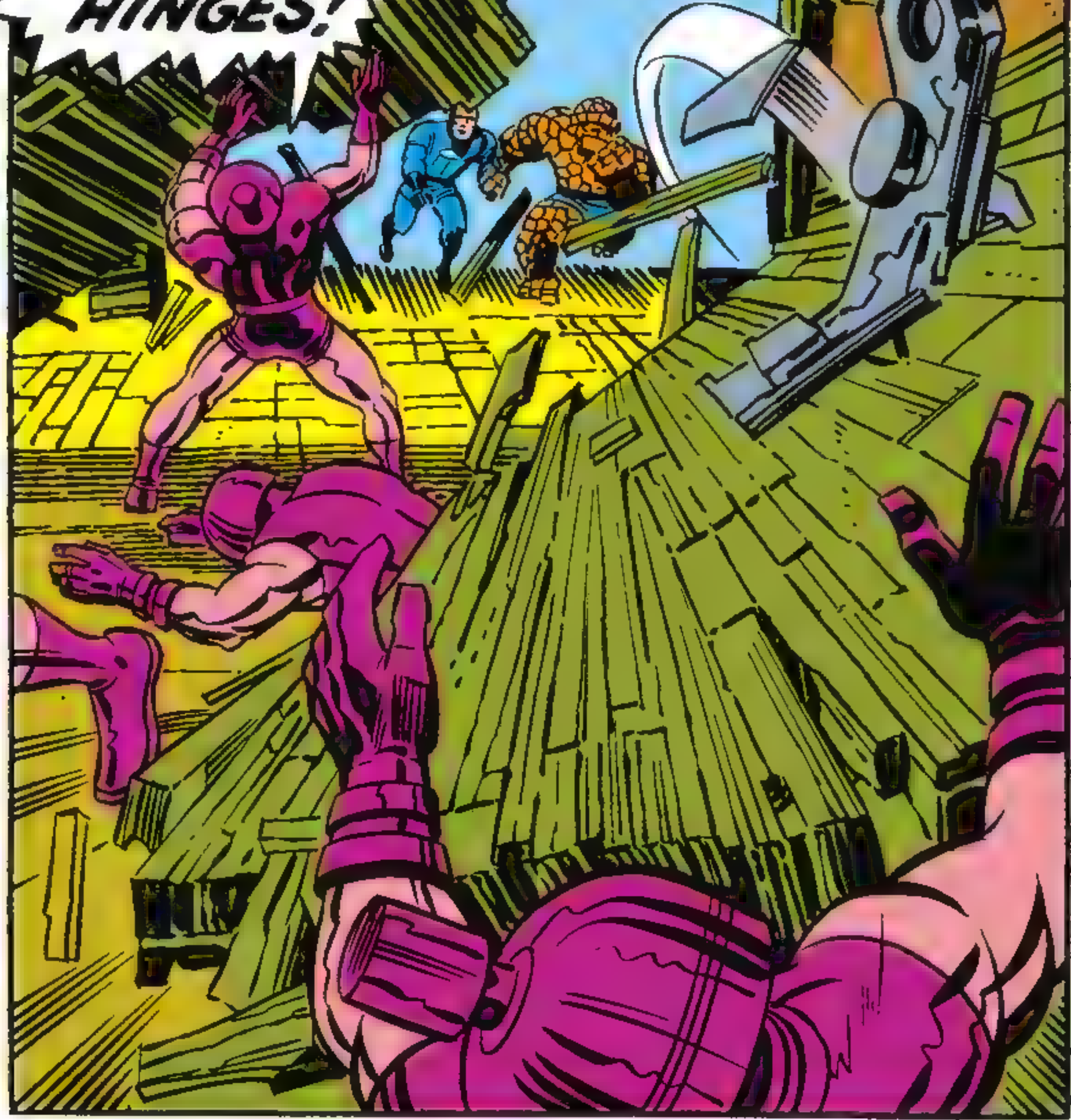




IT WAS--
THE ORANGE-
SKINNED
ONE!

HE BLEW
THE GATES
RIGHT OFF
THEIR
HINGES!

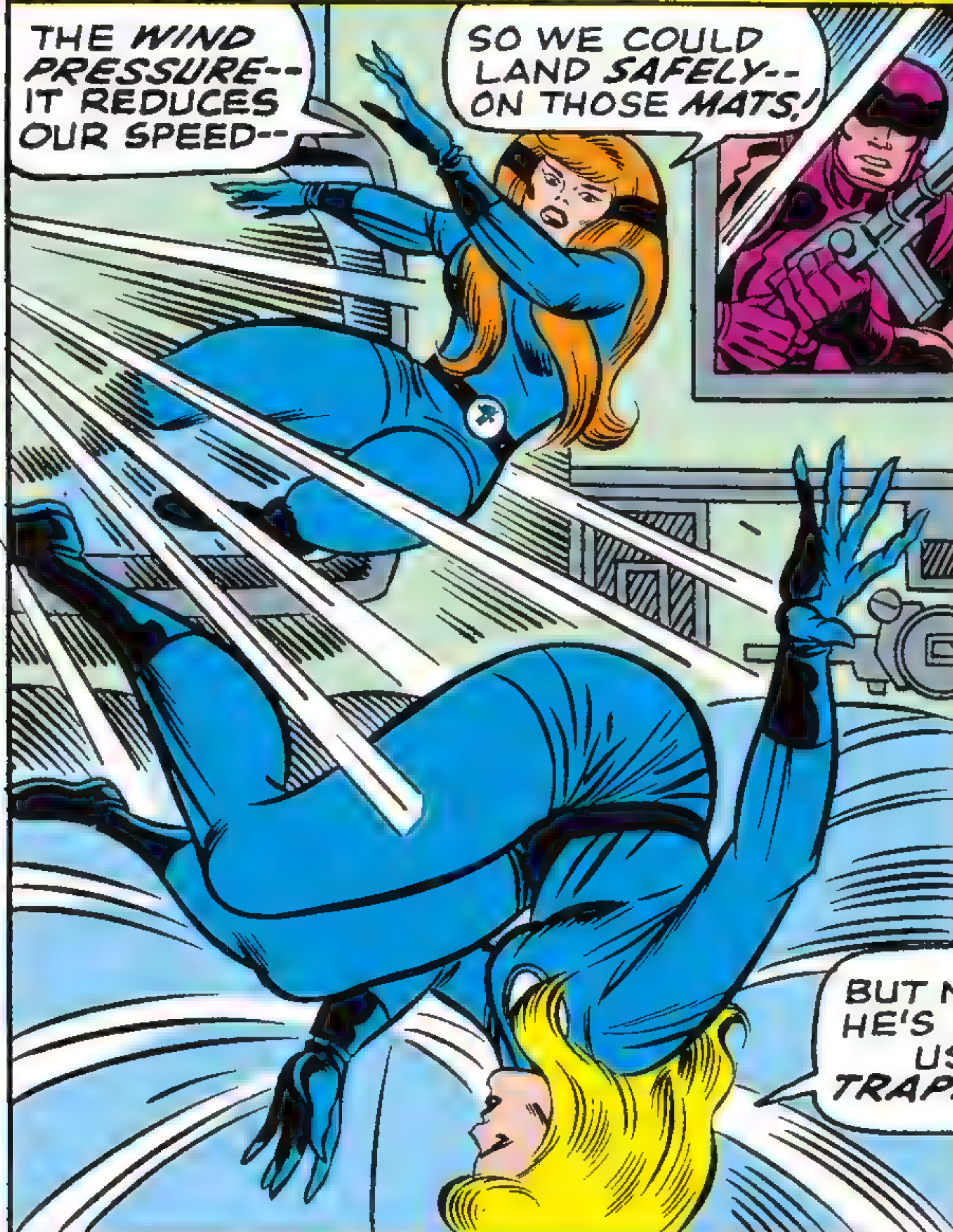
'N NOW--
IT'S
**CLOBBERIN'
TIME!**



AT THAT VERY INSTANT, IN ANOTHER PART
OF THE HEAVILY-GUARDED CASTLE--

THE WIND
PRESSURE--
IT REDUCES
OUR SPEED--

SO WE COULD
LAND SAFELY--
ON THOSE MATS!



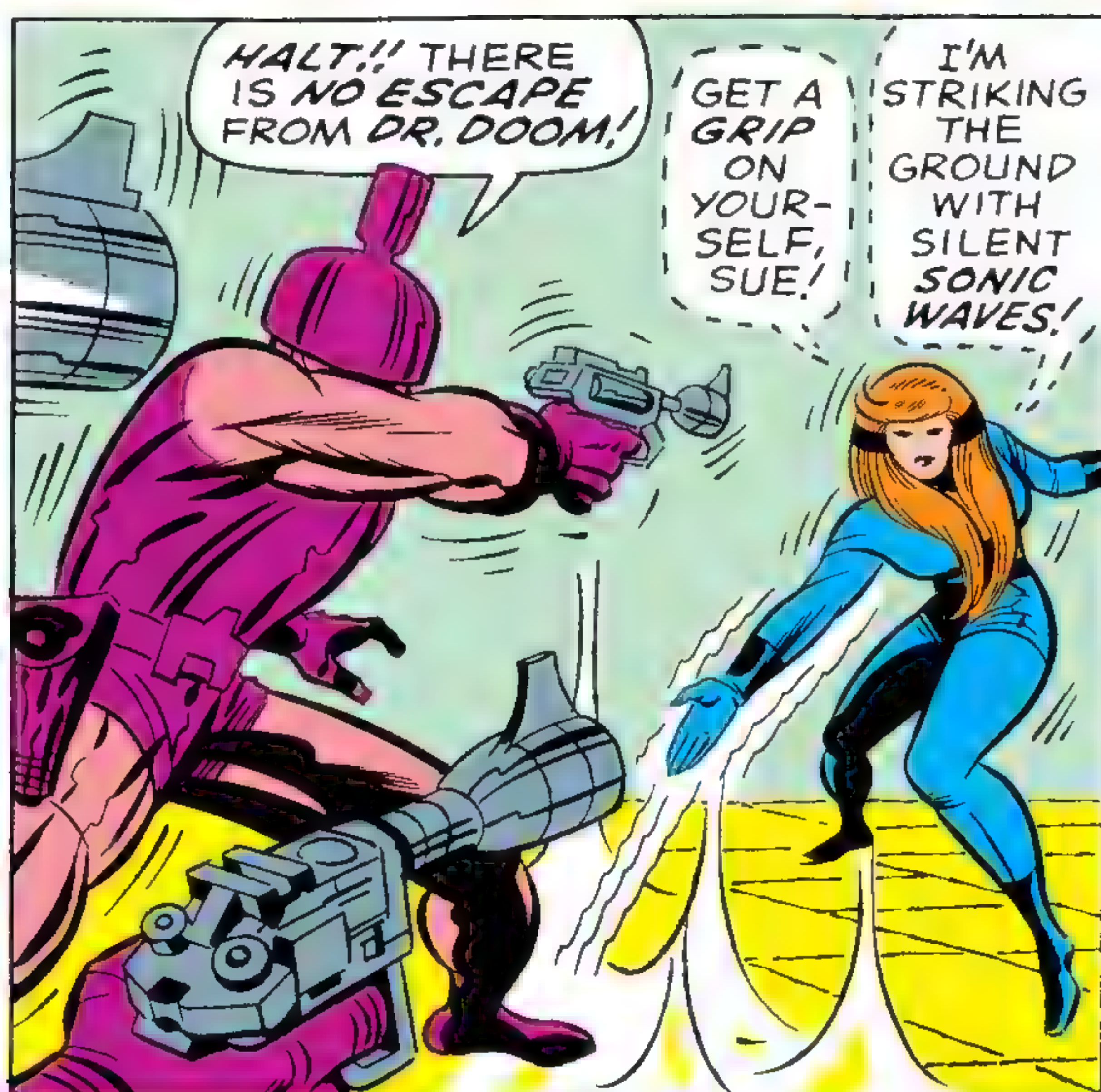
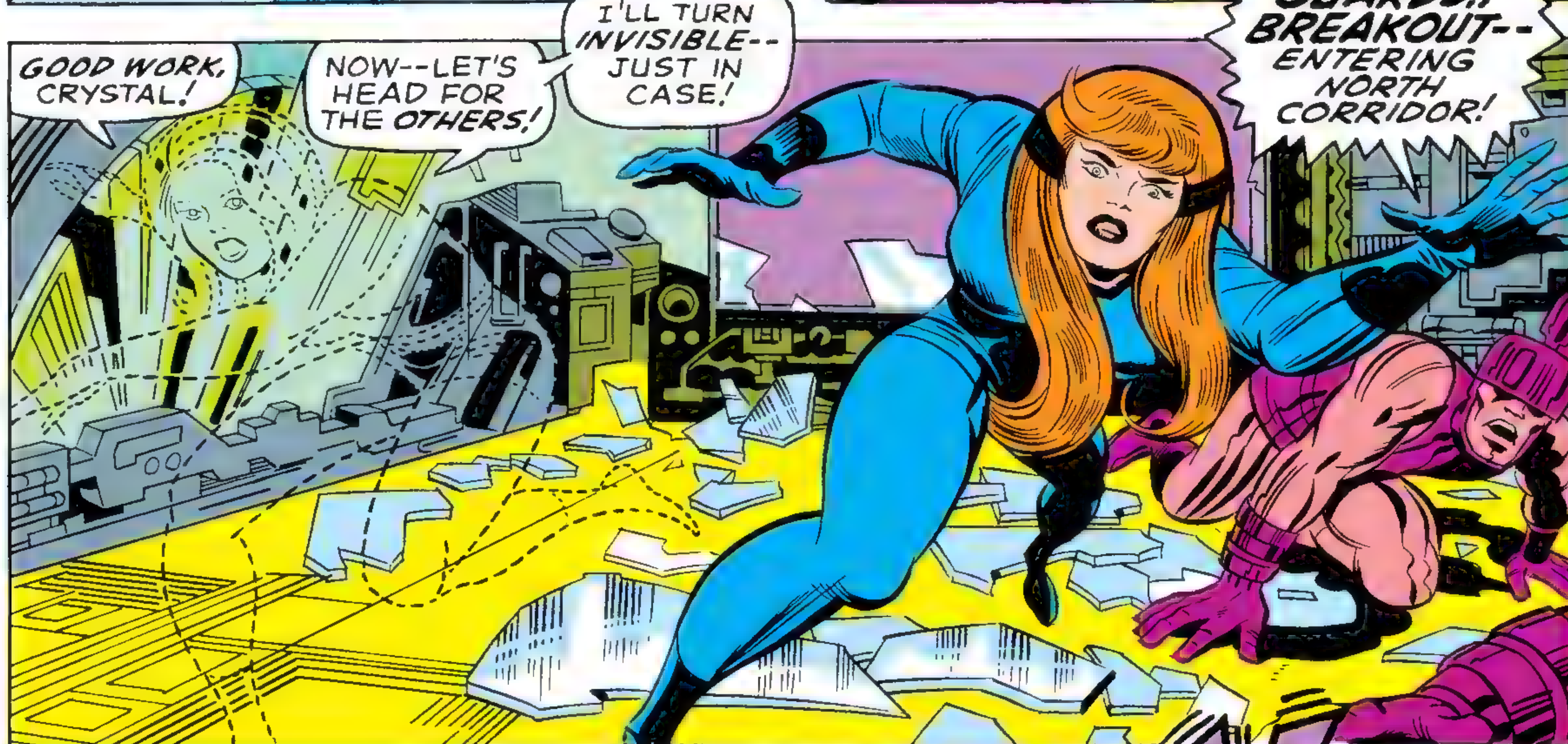
BUT NOW--
HE'S GOT
US
TRAPPED!

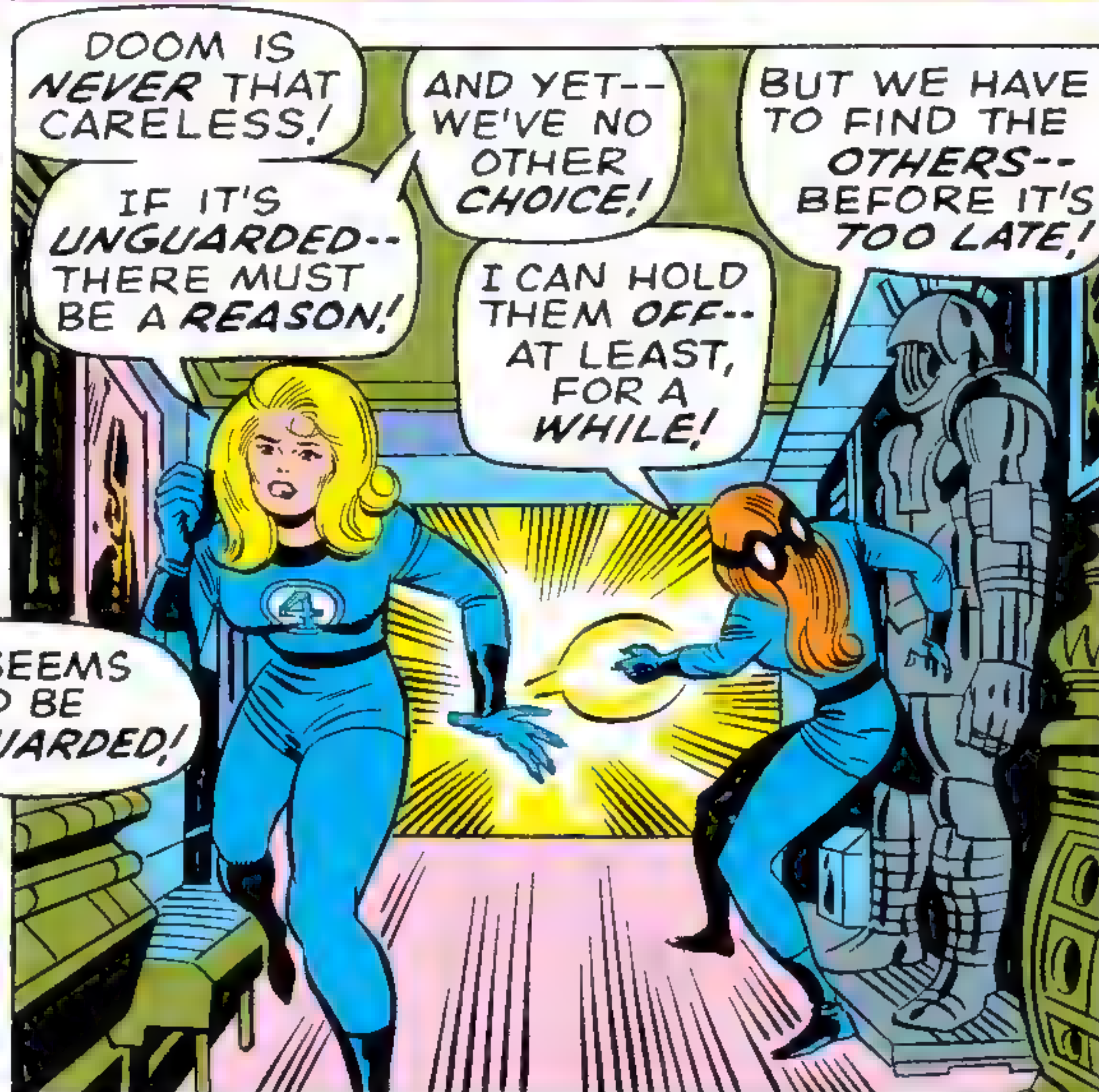
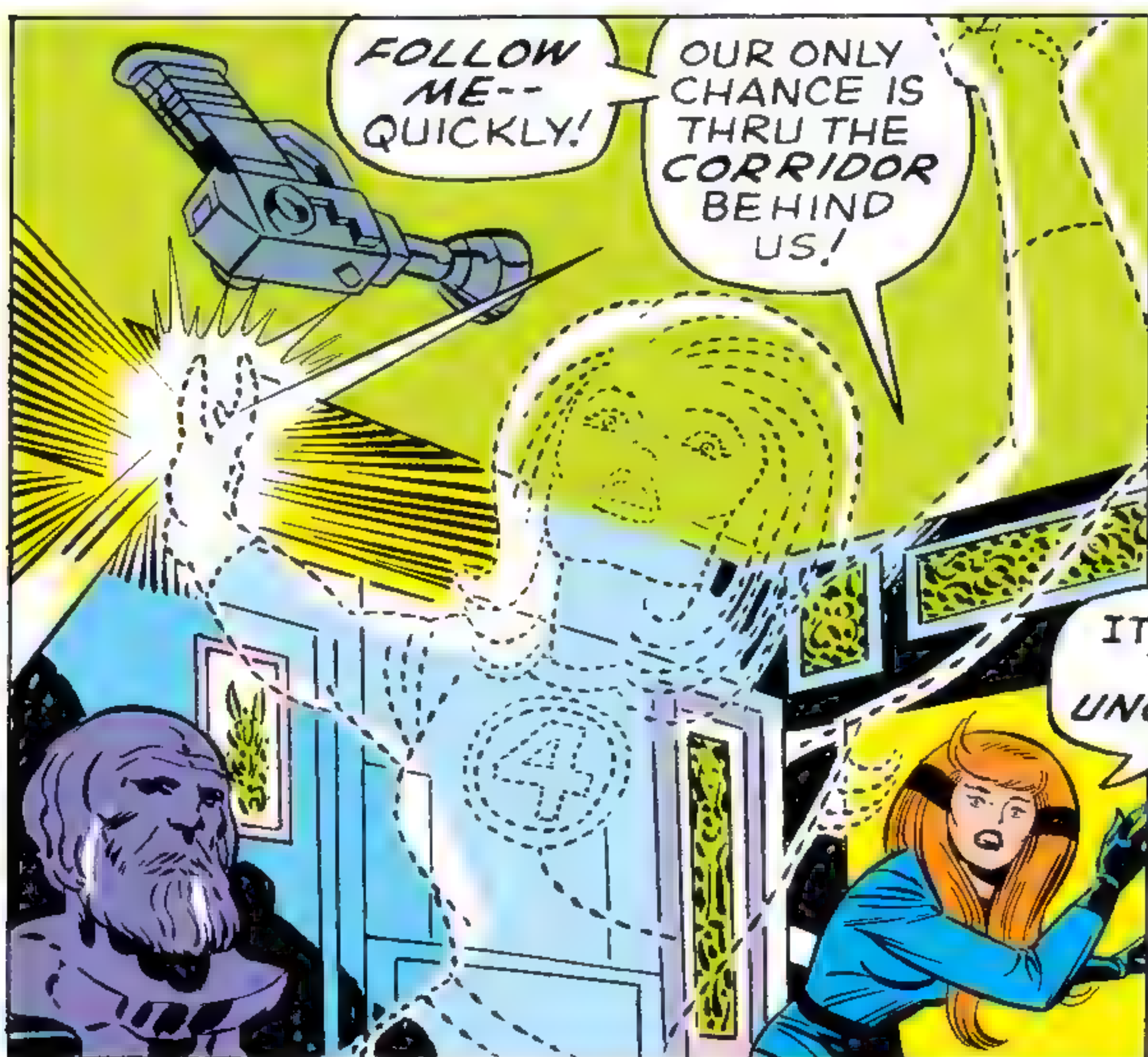
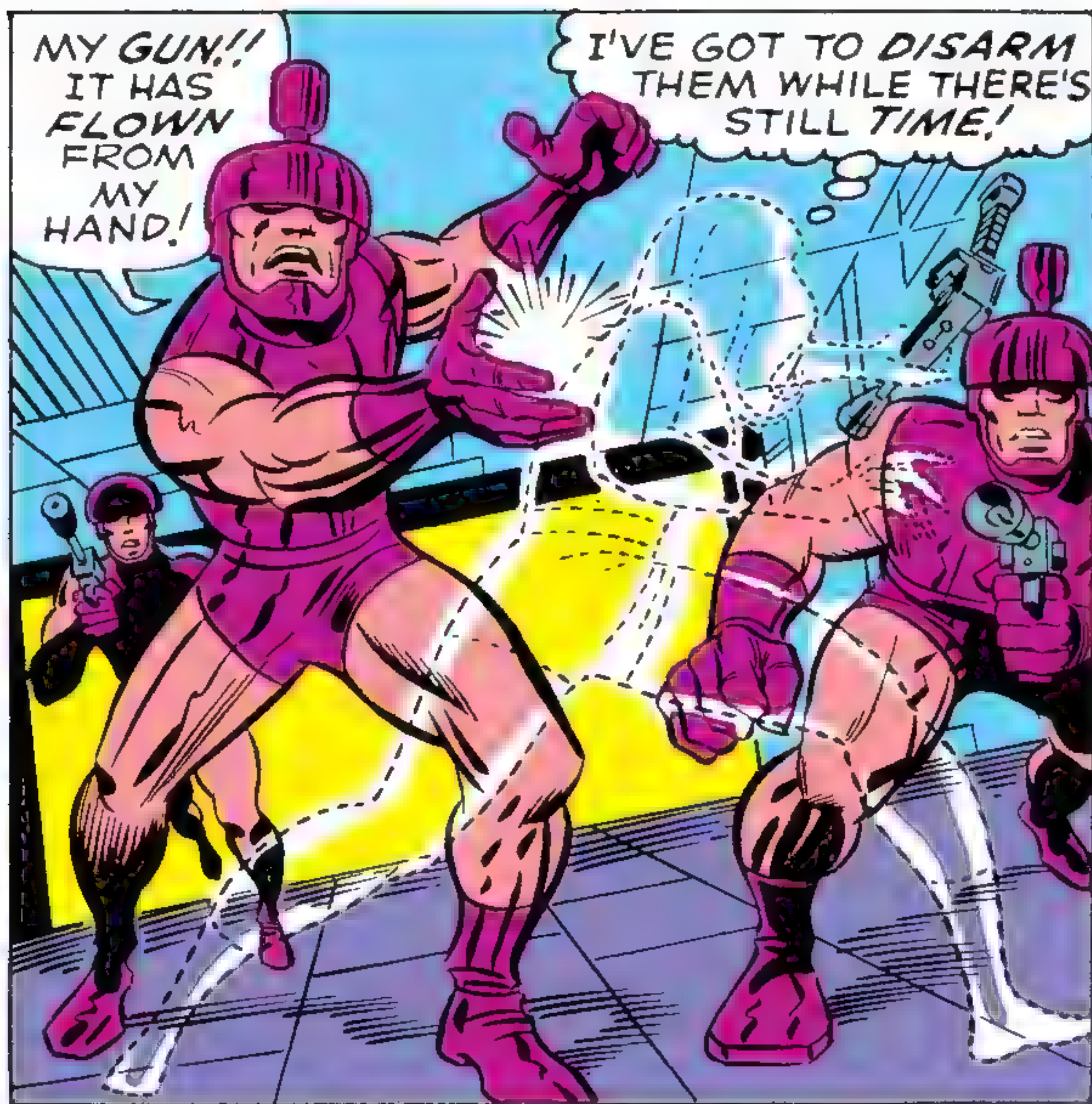
NOT FOR LONG,
MRS. RICHARDS!

YOU USED
YOUR
INVISIBILITY
POWER TO
SAVE ALL OUR
LIVES
BEFORE--

AND NOW--
IT'S TIME FOR
ME TO DO
MY SHARE--
TO RETURN
THE FAVOR!









COME IN, MY PRETTIES! I HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!

THIS EVENING SHALL DECIDE THE DESTINY WHICH SOON AWAITS US--

SO PRAY BE SEATED--FOR IT IS NEARLY TIME FOR OUR FESTIVITIES TO START!

SURELY YOU DO NOT THINK ME SO UNGALLANT AS TO FORGET YOU ARE MY GUESTS!

AND IT MUST BE CELEBRATED IN A MANNER BEFITTING SO MOMENTOUS AN OCCASION!

UNINVITED, PERHAPS-- BUT GUESTS NONETHELESS!

HOWEVER, SINCE WE HAVE A FEW MINUTES TO KILL WHILE AWAITING THE OTHERS, LET'S TURN OUR ATTENTION --ALBEIT BRIEFLY-- TO A LONELY SUBURBAN AREA JUST OUTSIDE OF NEW YORK, WHERE WE FIND--

THIS CAN'T BE THE PLACE! NOBODY WOULD WANNA LIVE HERE!

IT'S TRUE, I TELL YOU! I SAW HER HERE WITH MY OWN EYES!

ANYWAY, MY UNCLE'S A REAL ESTATE AGENT, SO I SHOULD KNOW!

YOU MEAN THIS IS THE PLACE HE TOOK MRS. RICHARDS TO?

WHY WOULD THE WIFE OF MR. FANTASTIC BE INTERESTED IN THAT SPOOKY UNDERGROUND HOUSE?

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU--!

SHE TOLD MY UNCLE THAT THEY WANNA LIVE IN SOME QUIET PLACE--WHERE THEY WON'T BE BOTHERED BY VISITORS--OR BY CELEBRITY HUNTERS!

BUT THEY JUST HAD A NEW BABY!--NOBODY WOULD BRING AN INFANT TO A PLACE LIKE THIS!

FACE IT, FELLAS--THE FF AREN'T EXACTLY LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!

BUT NO ONE EVEN KNOWS WHO BUILT THIS PLACE--AND WHY!

LISTEN!! DID YOU JUST HEAR SOMETHING??

IT SOUNDED LIKE--SOME KINDA SHRIEK--COMING FROM BELOW--INSIDE THE HOUSE!

GANGWAY!! I'M GETTIN' OUT OF HERE!

I KNEW WE SHOULDN'TA COME HERE!

THE PLACE IS HAUNTED--LIKE EVERYONE SAYS!

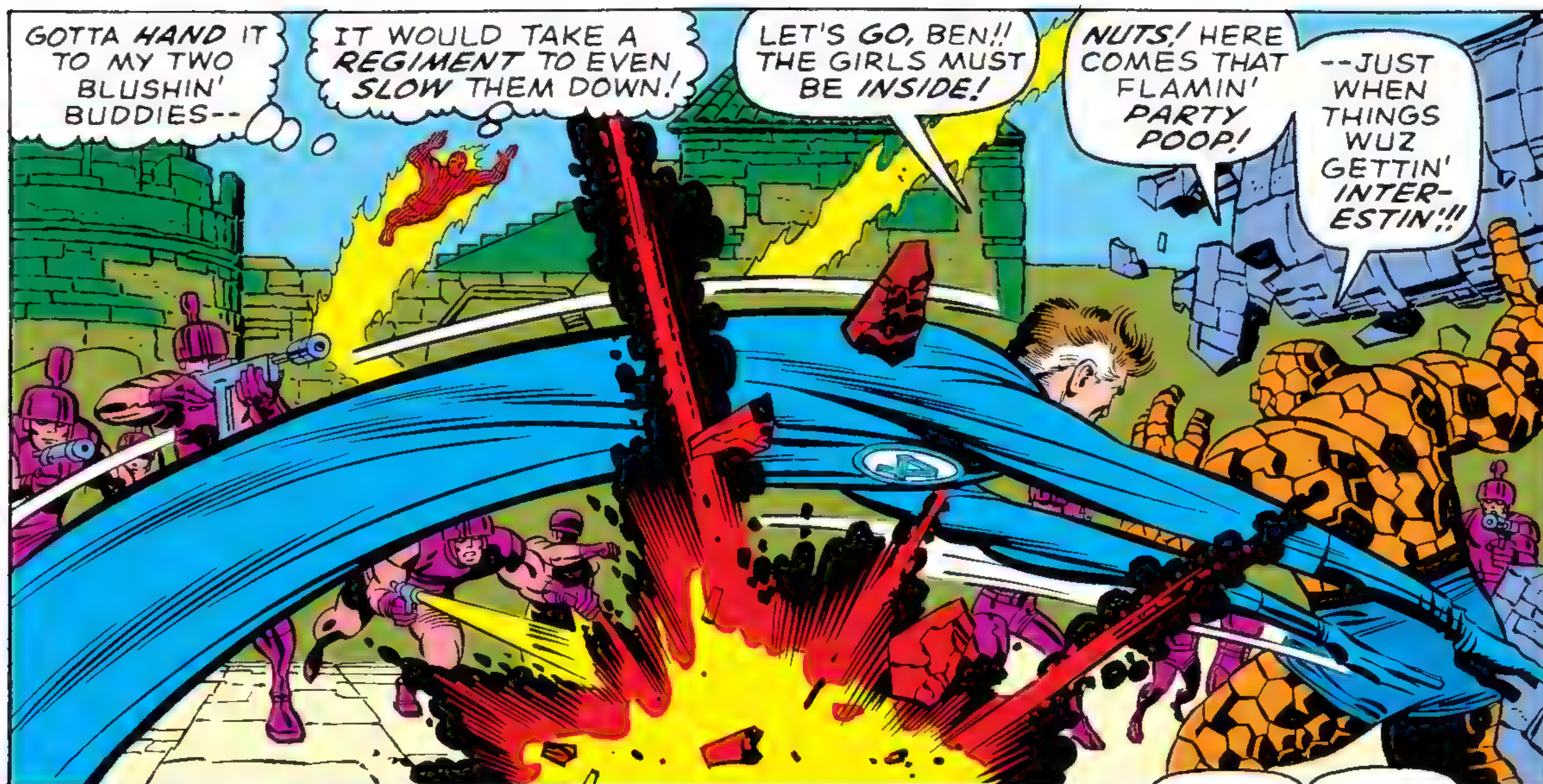
I DUNNO WHO--OR WHAT MADE THAT SOUND--BUT ONE THING'S SURE--

IT WASN'T ANYTHING HUMAN!

AND NOW THAT WE'VE SNEAKILY LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR NEXT ISH... ONWARD--

I CAN ZOOM DOWN NOW--THE AIR-GUN'S DESERTED!

THE GUARDS ARE ALL BUSY BATTLING REED AND THE THING!



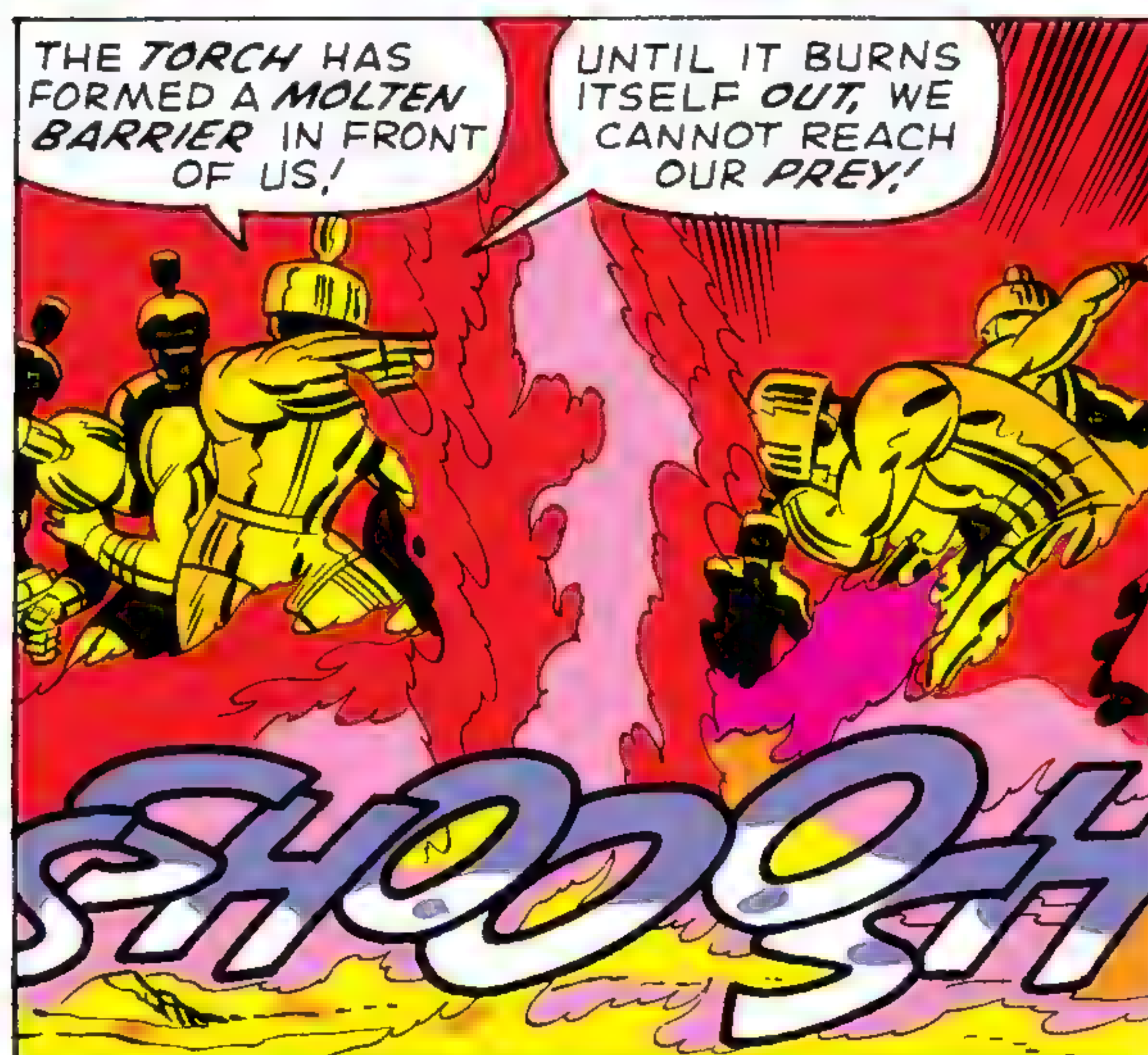
GOTTA HAND IT TO MY TWO BLUSHIN' BUDDIES--

IT WOULD TAKE A REGIMENT TO EVEN SLOW THEM DOWN!

LET'S GO, BEN!! THE GIRLS MUST BE INSIDE!

NUTS! HERE COMES THAT FLAMIN' PARTY POOP!

--JUST WHEN THINGS WUZ GETTIN' INTER-ESTIN'!!!



THE TORCH HAS FORMED A MOLTEN BARRIER IN FRONT OF US!

UNTIL IT BURNS ITSELF OUT, WE CANNOT REACH OUR PREY!



HEY-- SLOW DOWN, HOTSHOT!! WAIT FER US!

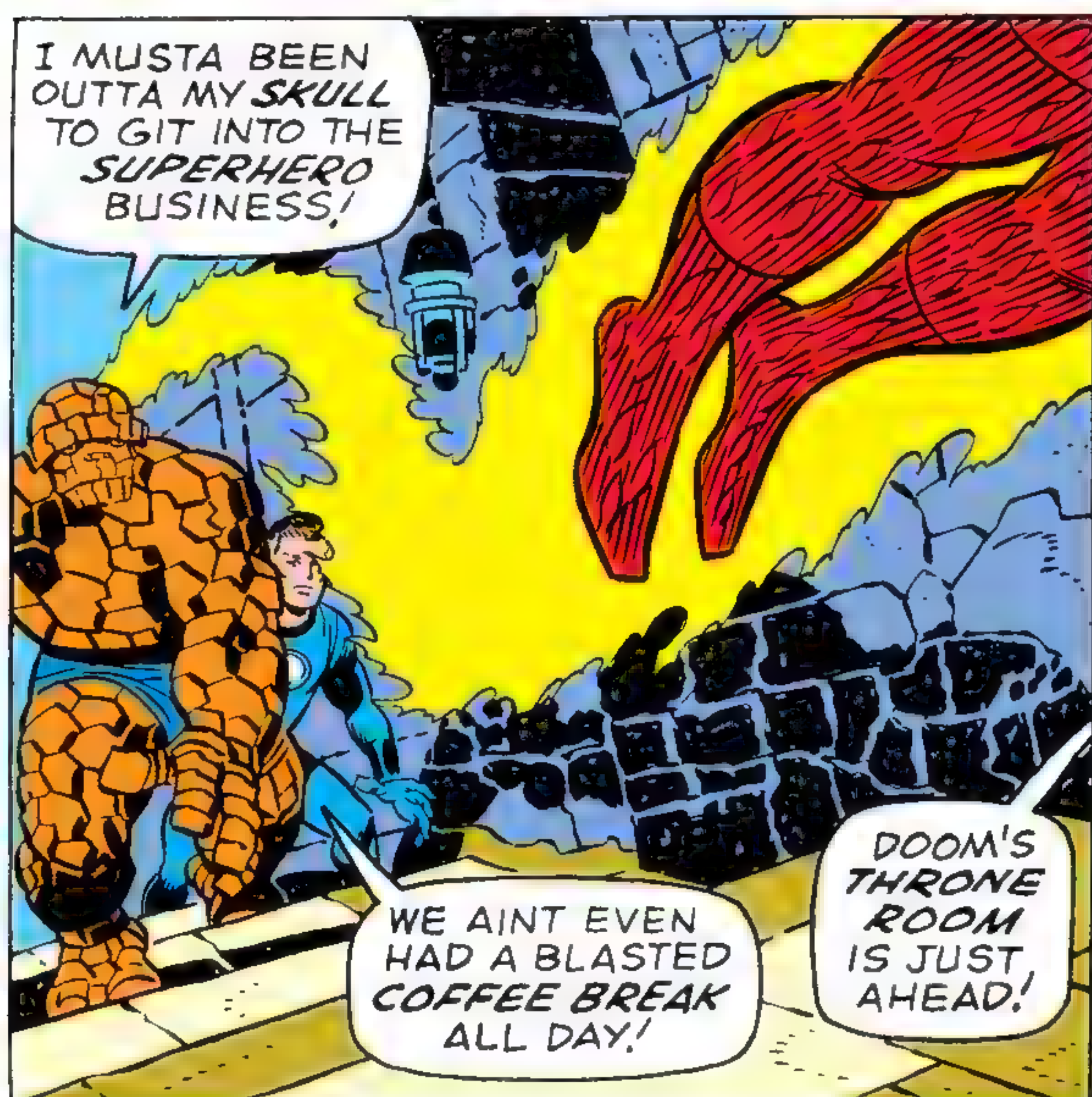
SORRY, BIG BUDDY!

WITH CRYSTAL TRAPPED IN THERE --I DON'T WAIT FOR ANYONE!

DOOM WON'T HAVE HARMED THEM!

HE'LL JUST HOLD THEM AS BAIT!

WE'RE THE ONES HE'S AFTER!



I MUSTA BEEN OUTTA MY SKULL TO GIT INTO THE SUPERHERO BUSINESS!

WE AINT EVEN HAD A BLASTED COFFEE BREAK ALL DAY!

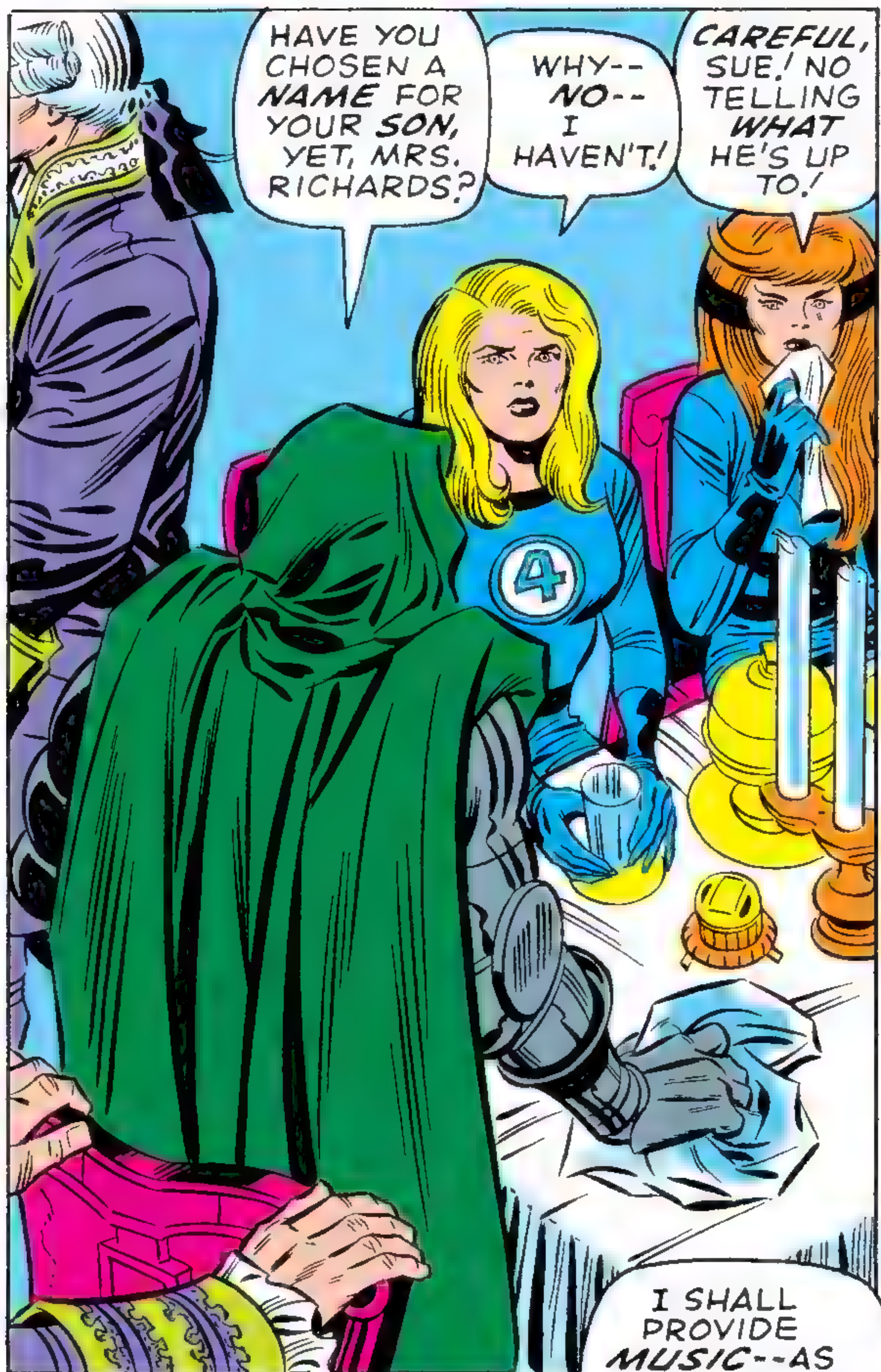
DOOM'S THRONE ROOM IS JUST AHEAD!



BE ON GUARD-- BOTH OF YOU!

EVERY INCH OF THIS CASTLE IS COVERED BY CLOSED CIRCUIT VIEWING DEVICES!

BUT WE'RE STILL CRASHING IN--NO MATTER WHAT!

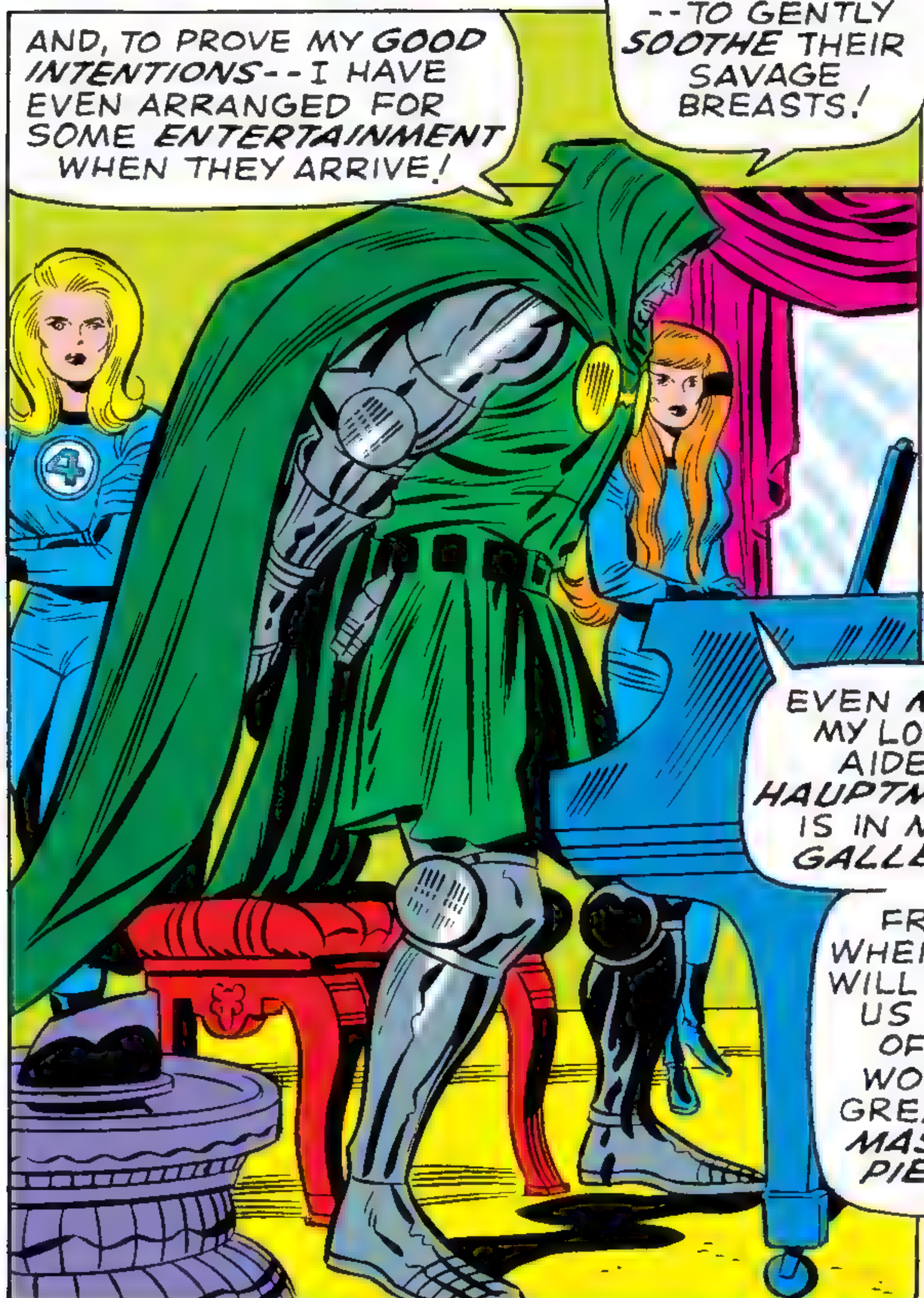


HAVE YOU CHOSEN A NAME FOR YOUR SON, YET, MRS. RICHARDS?

WHY-- NO-- I HAVEN'T!

CAREFUL, SUE! NO TELLING WHAT HE'S UP TO!

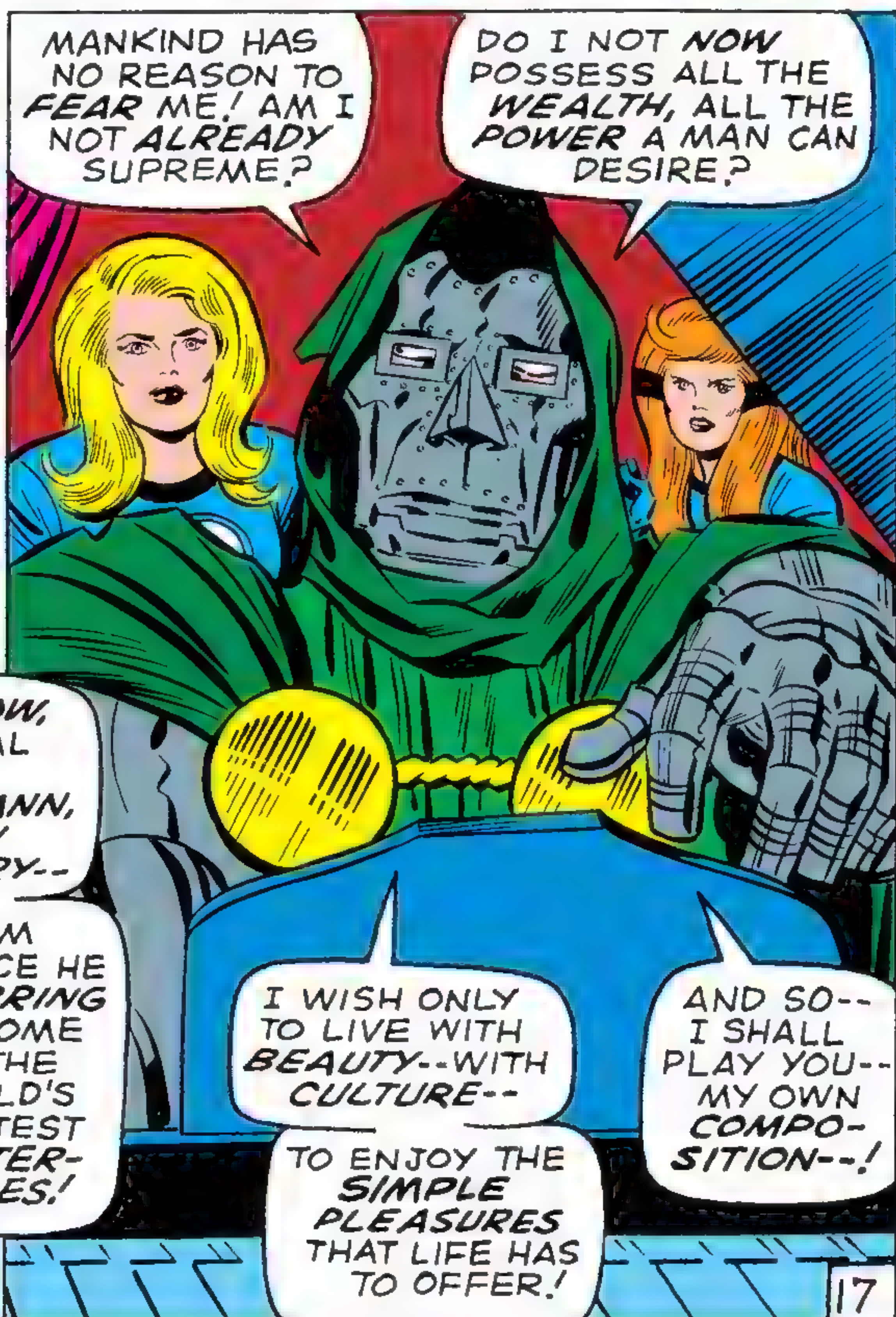
I SHALL PROVIDE MUSIC--AS WELL AS ART --TO GENTLY SOOTHE THEIR SAVAGE BREASTS!



AND, TO PROVE MY GOOD INTENTIONS--I HAVE EVEN ARRANGED FOR SOME ENTERTAINMENT WHEN THEY ARRIVE!

EVEN NOW, MY LOYAL AIDE, HAUPTMANN, IS IN MY GALLERY--

FROM WHENCE HE WILL BRING US SOME OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST MASTER-PIECES!



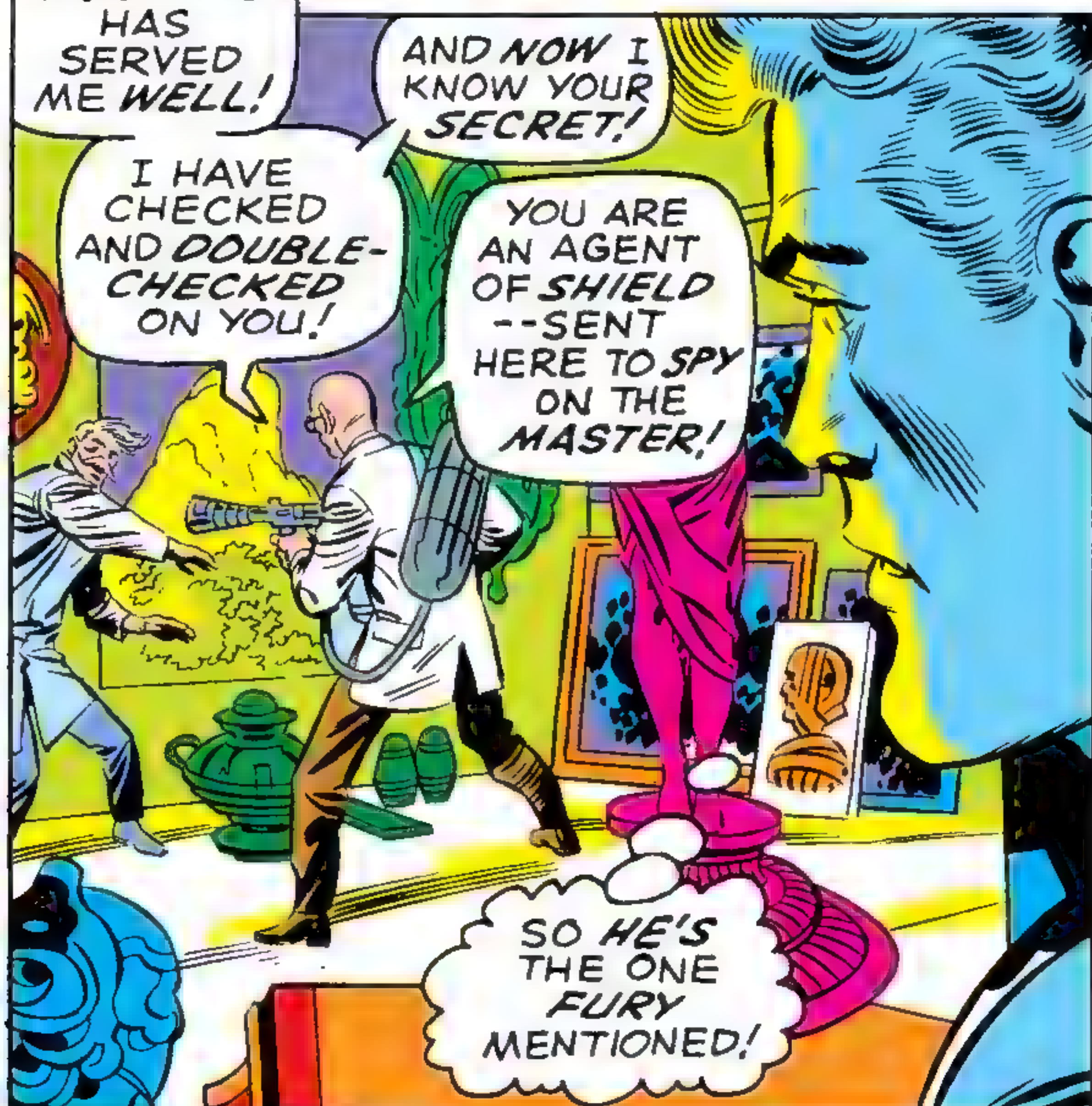
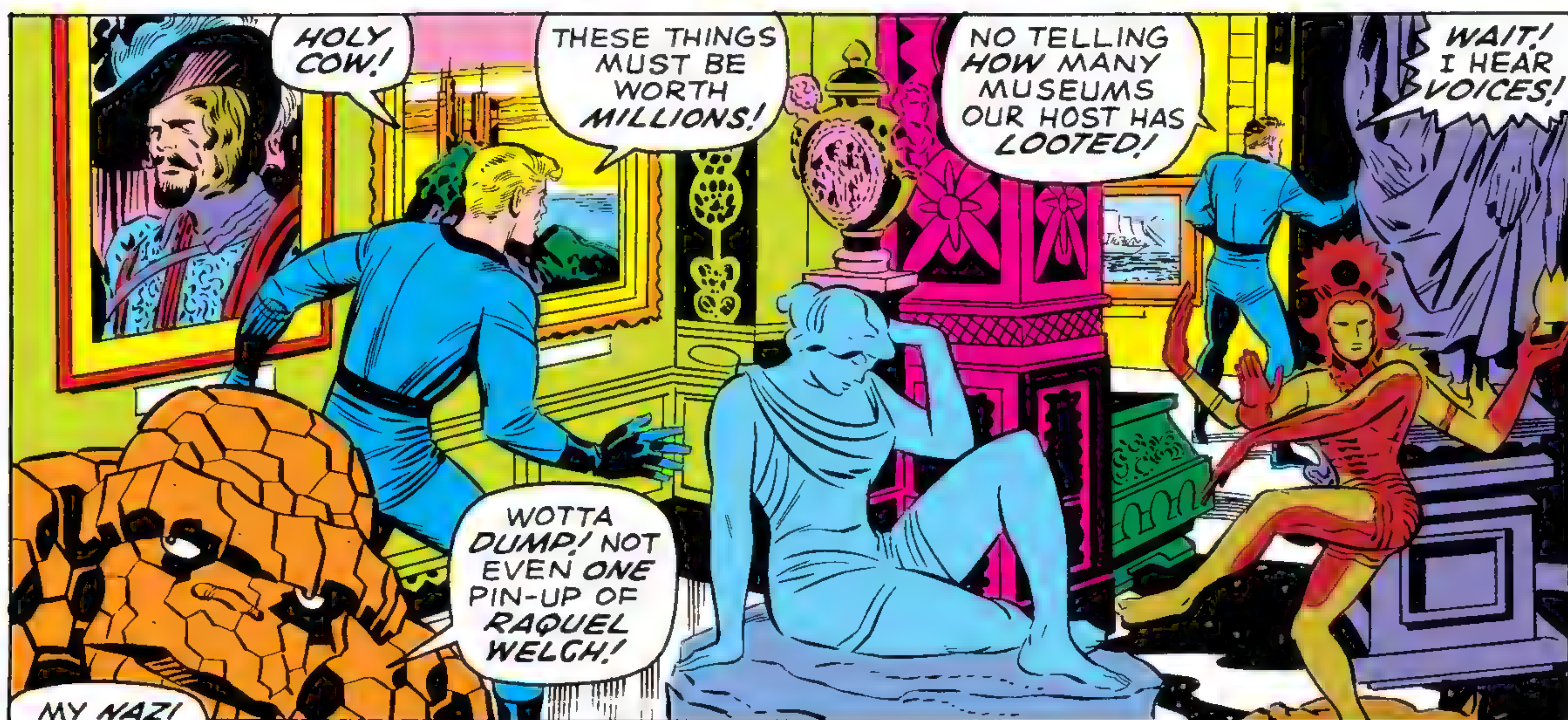
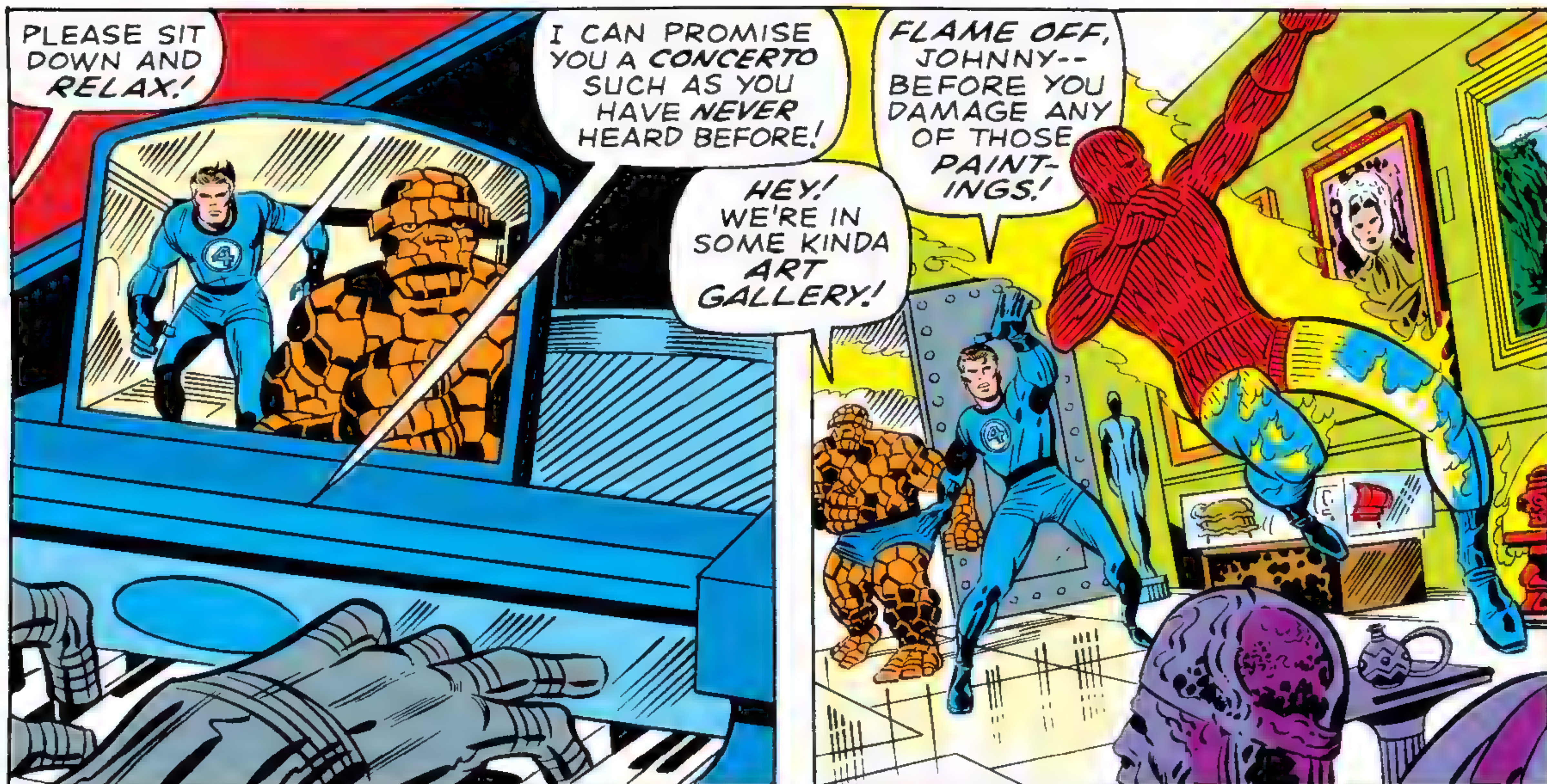
MANKIND HAS NO REASON TO FEAR ME! AM I NOT ALREADY SUPREME?

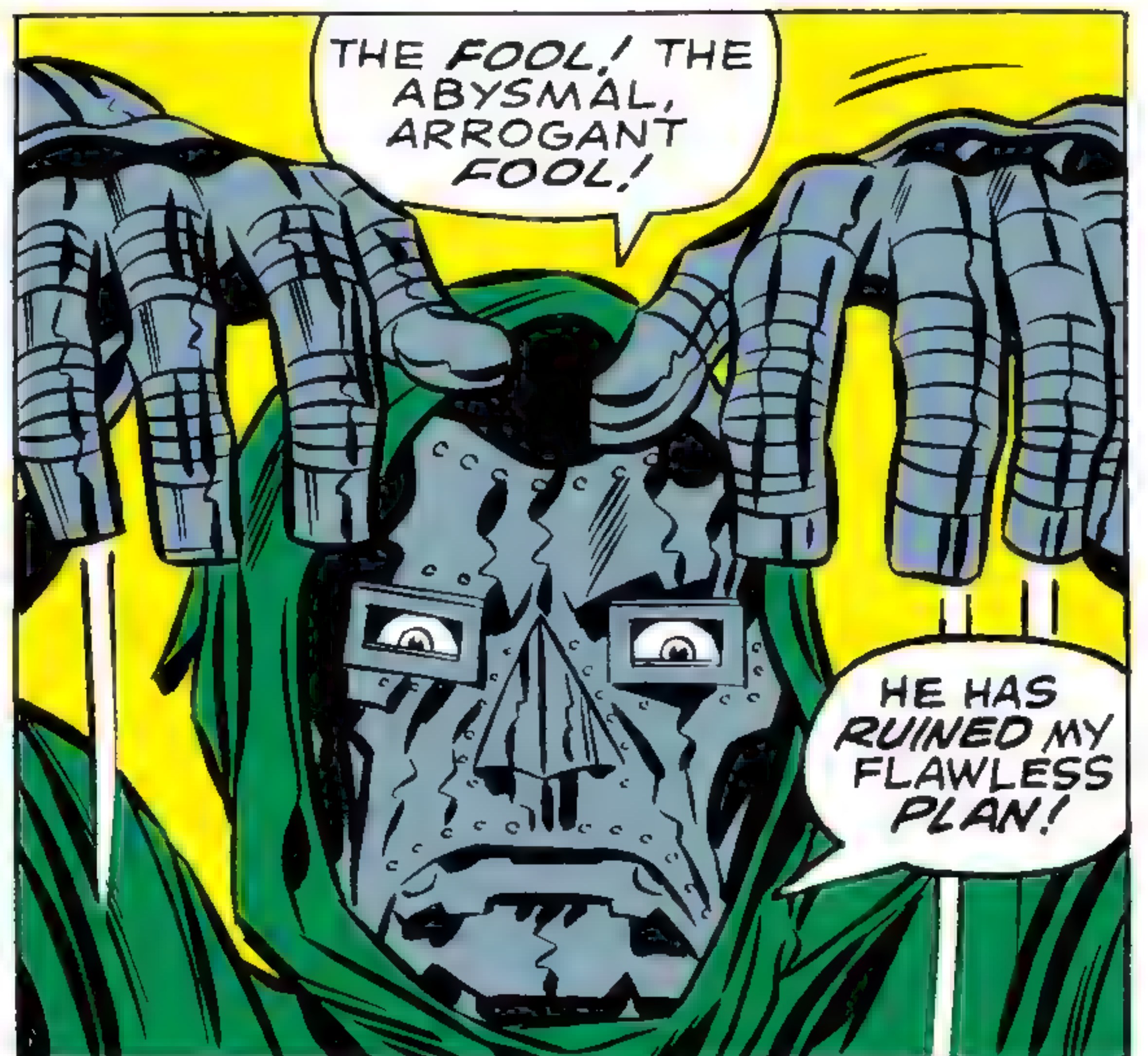
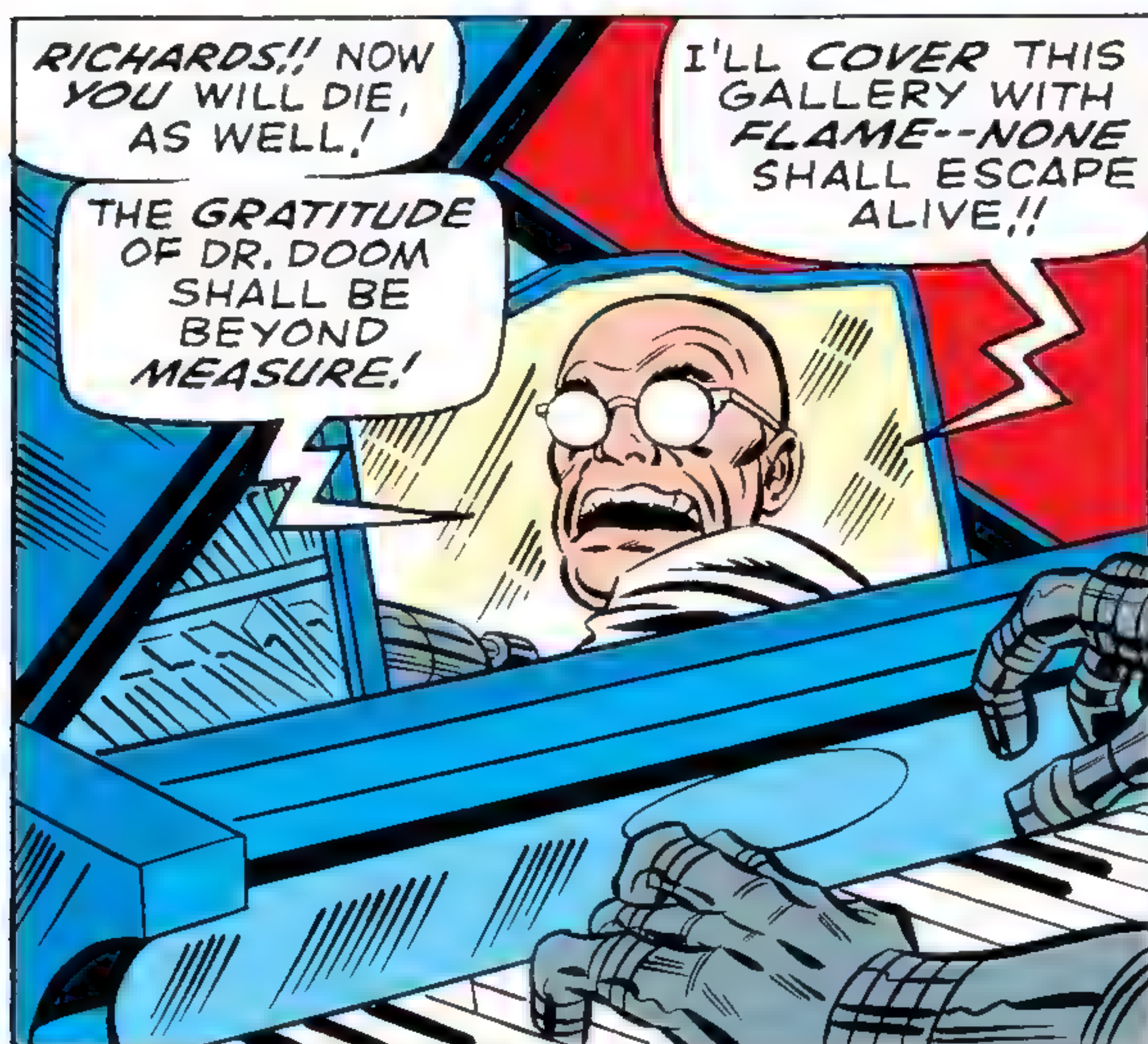
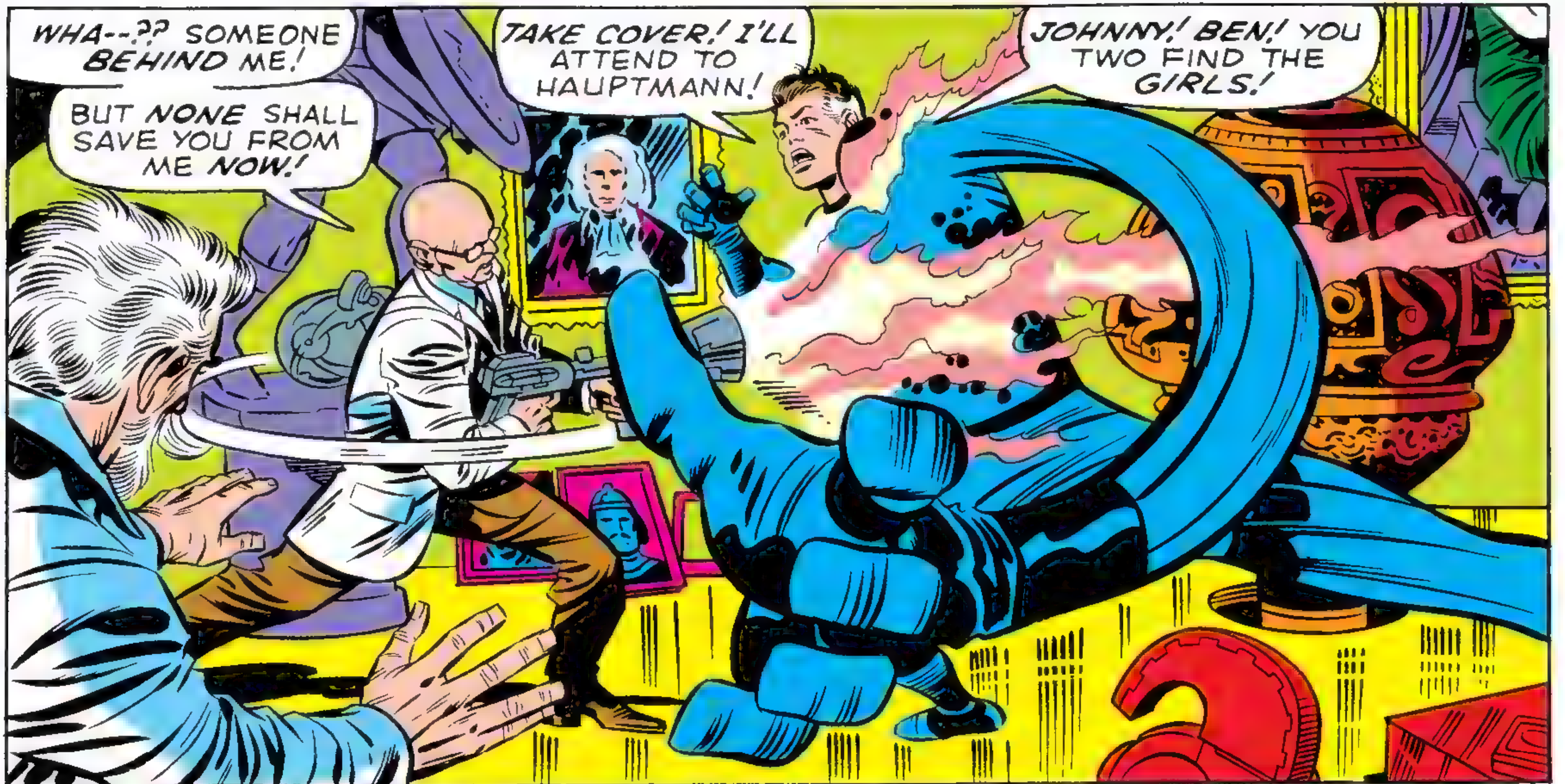
DO I NOT NOW POSSESS ALL THE WEALTH, ALL THE POWER A MAN CAN DESIRE?

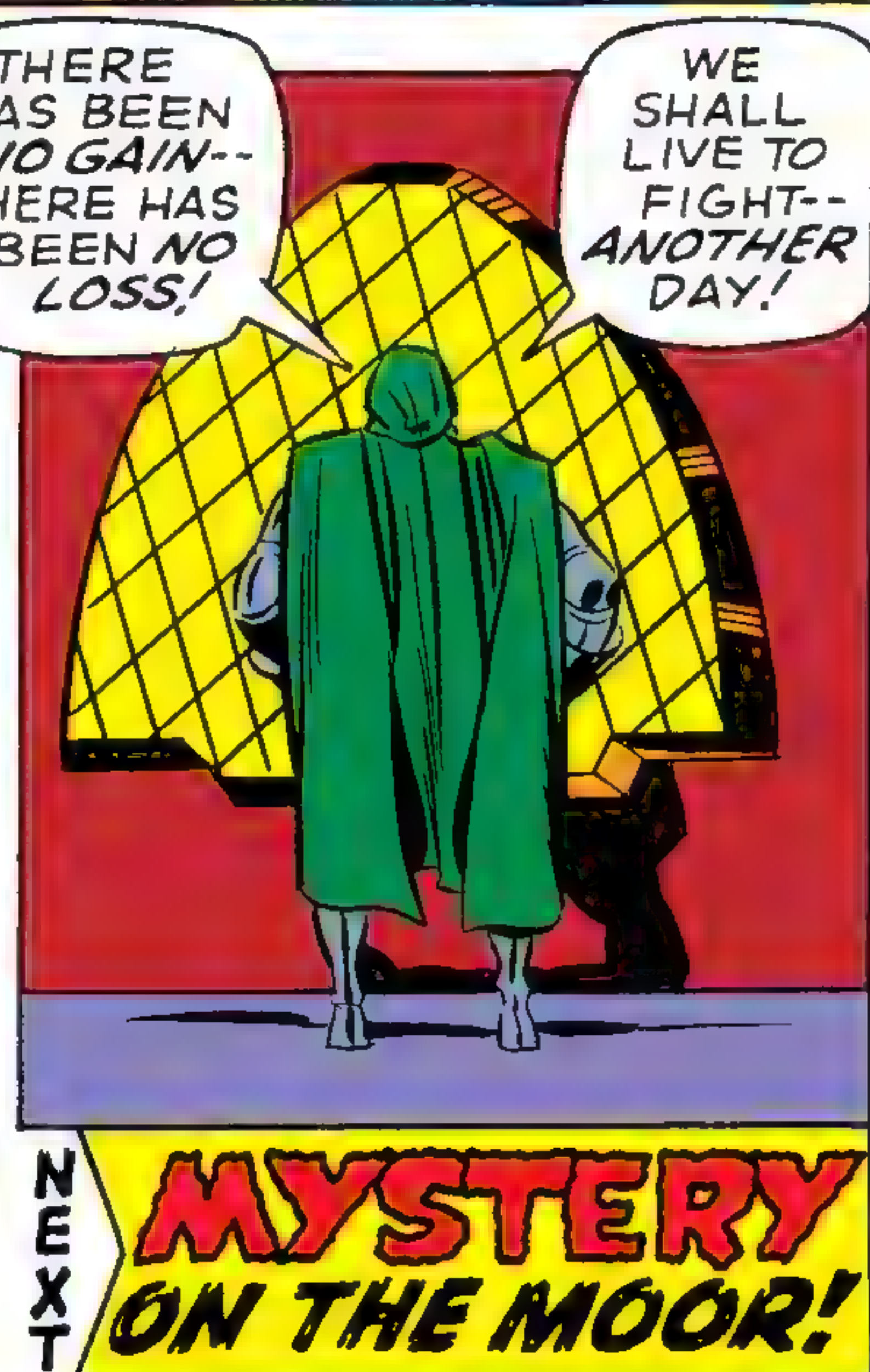
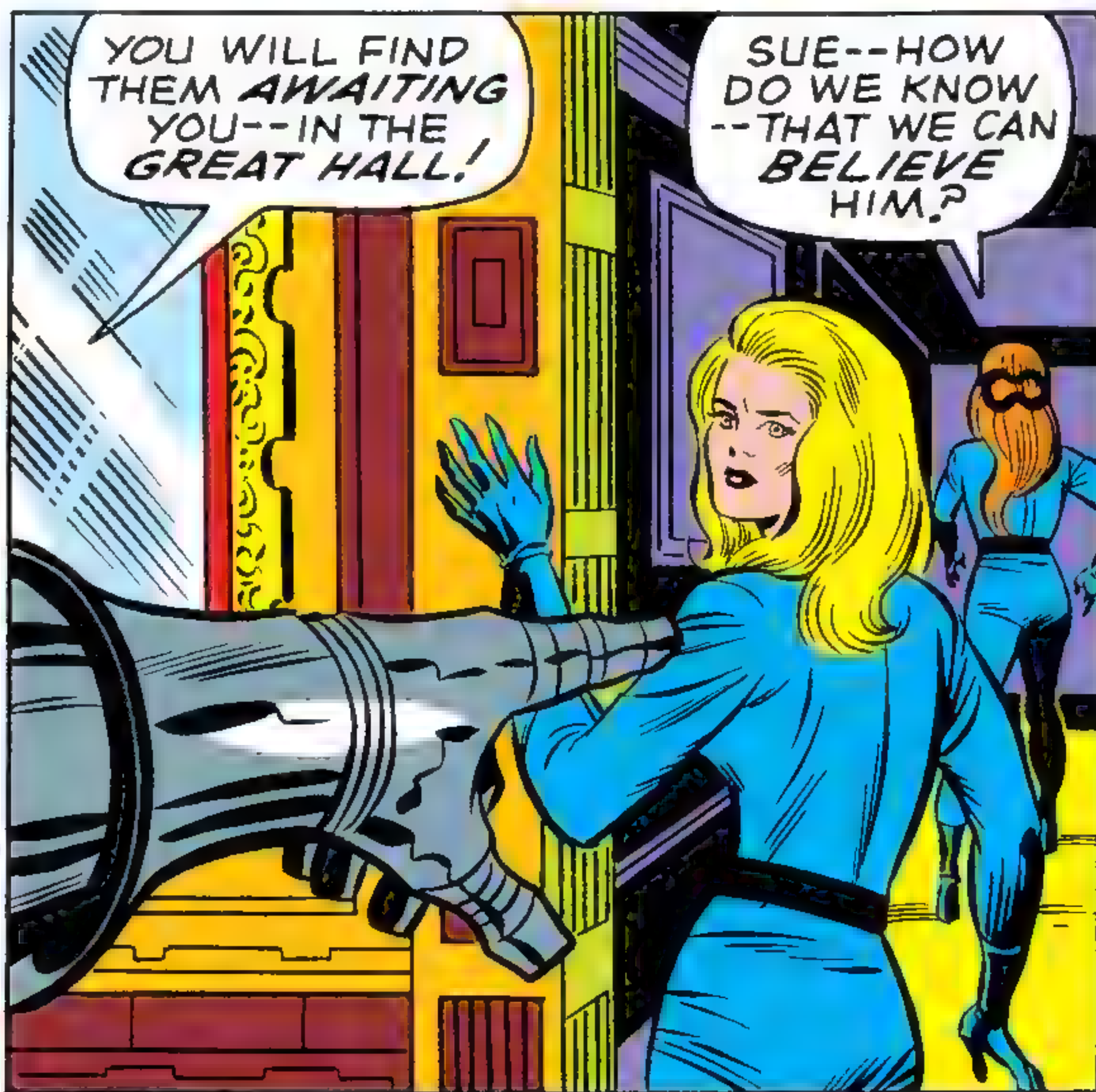
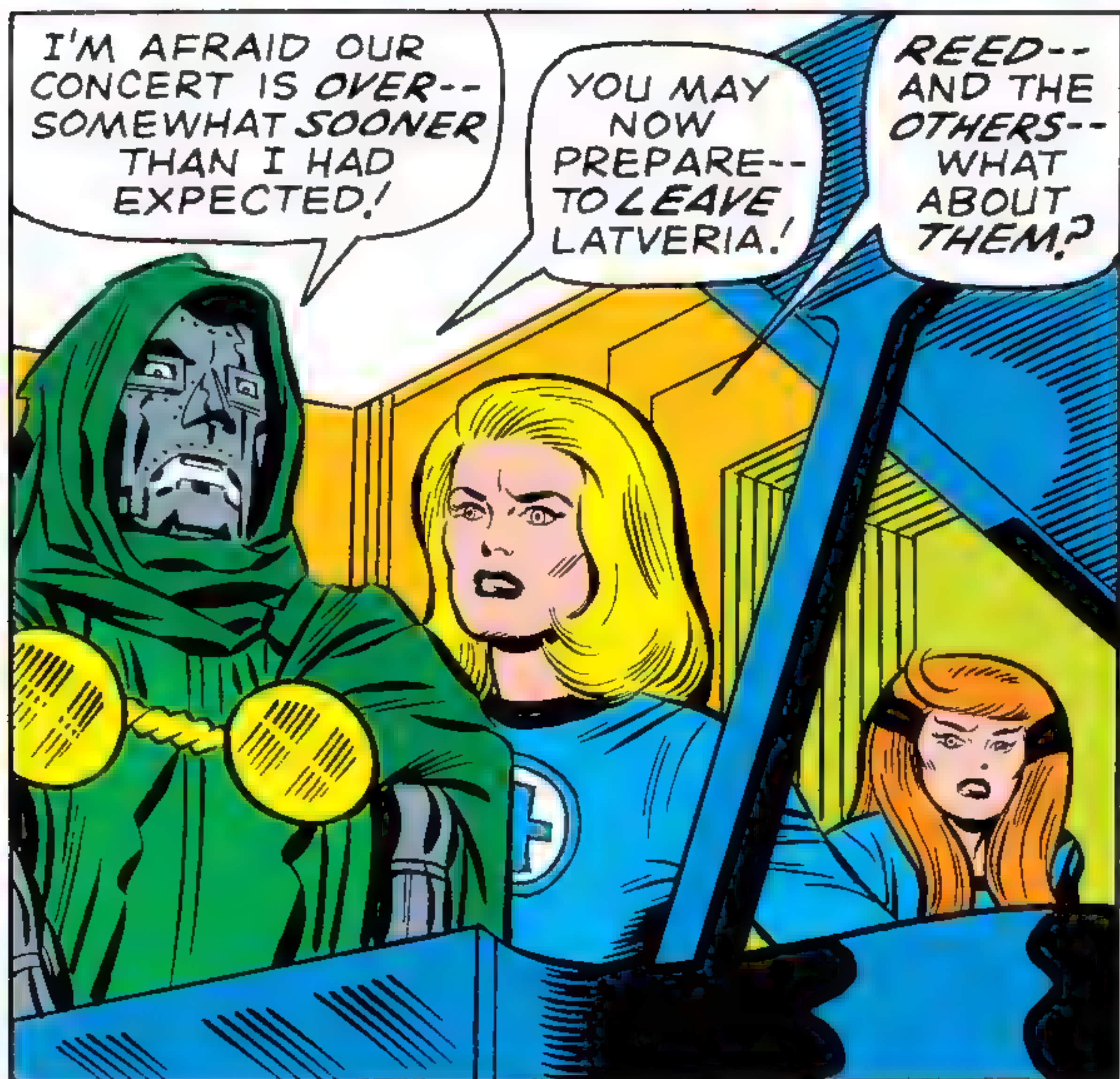
I WISH ONLY TO LIVE WITH BEAUTY--WITH CULTURE--

TO ENJOY THE SIMPLE PLEASURES THAT LIFE HAS TO OFFER!

AND SO-- I SHALL PLAY YOU-- MY OWN COMPOSITION--!







NEXT MYSTERY ON THE MOOR!

FANTASTIC
FOUR

12¢
IND.

88
JULY

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!



Fantastic FOUR



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP



A HOUSE THERE WAS!

FEATURING: THE SURPRISE SUPER-VILLAIN OF THE YEAR!

AFTER BATTLING DR. DOOM, THE **F.F.** RETURN TO FACE THEIR DEADLIEST MYSTERY!

A HOUSE THERE WAS!



ALICIA! WE'RE BACK! HOW'S THE BAB...

OH!! THERE HE IS NOW!

LOOK ALIVE, GORGEOUS!

YER BLUE-EYED LOVER BOY IS HOME AGAIN!

HEY! WHAT'S WITH MY LI'L OL' NEPHEW?

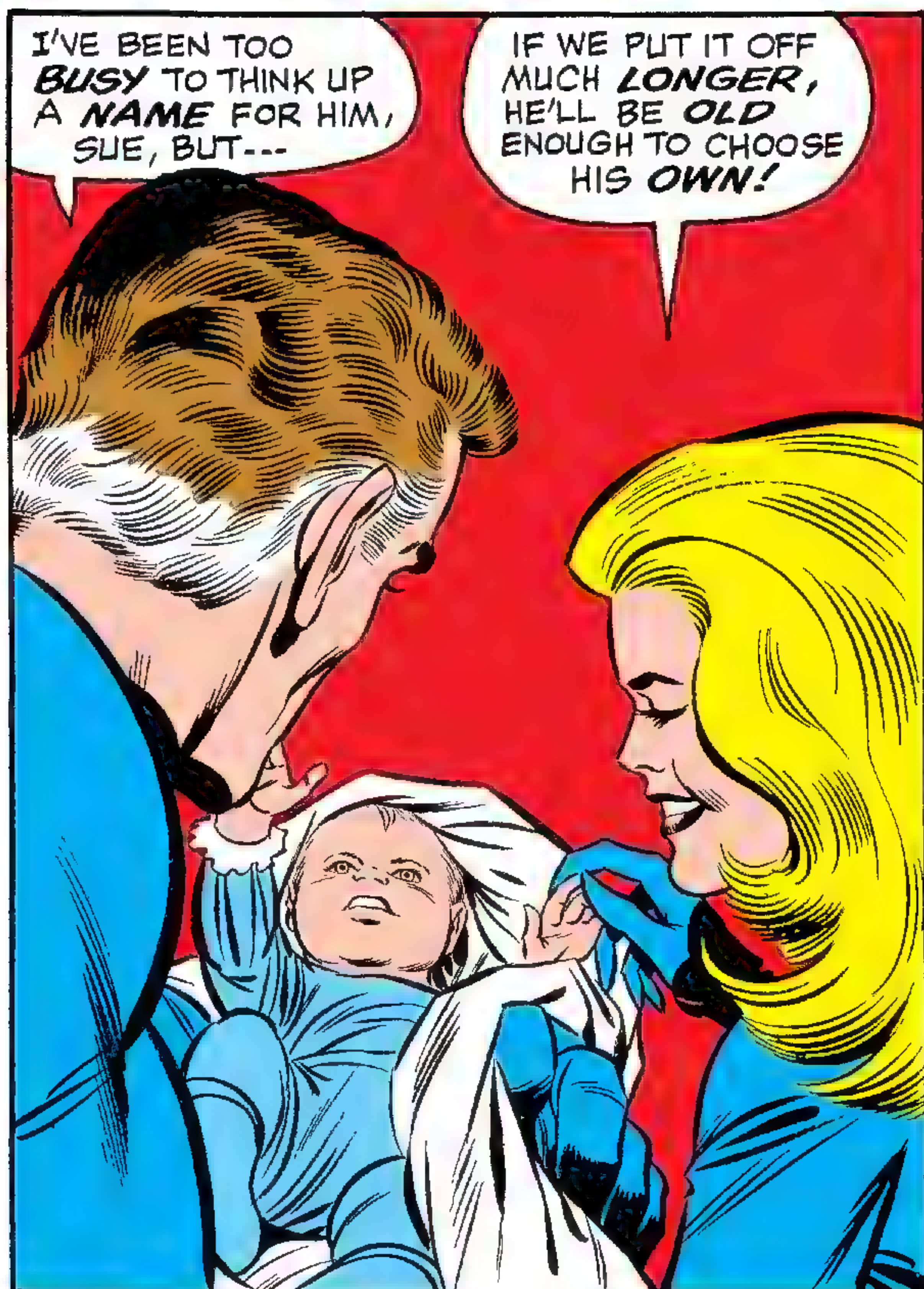
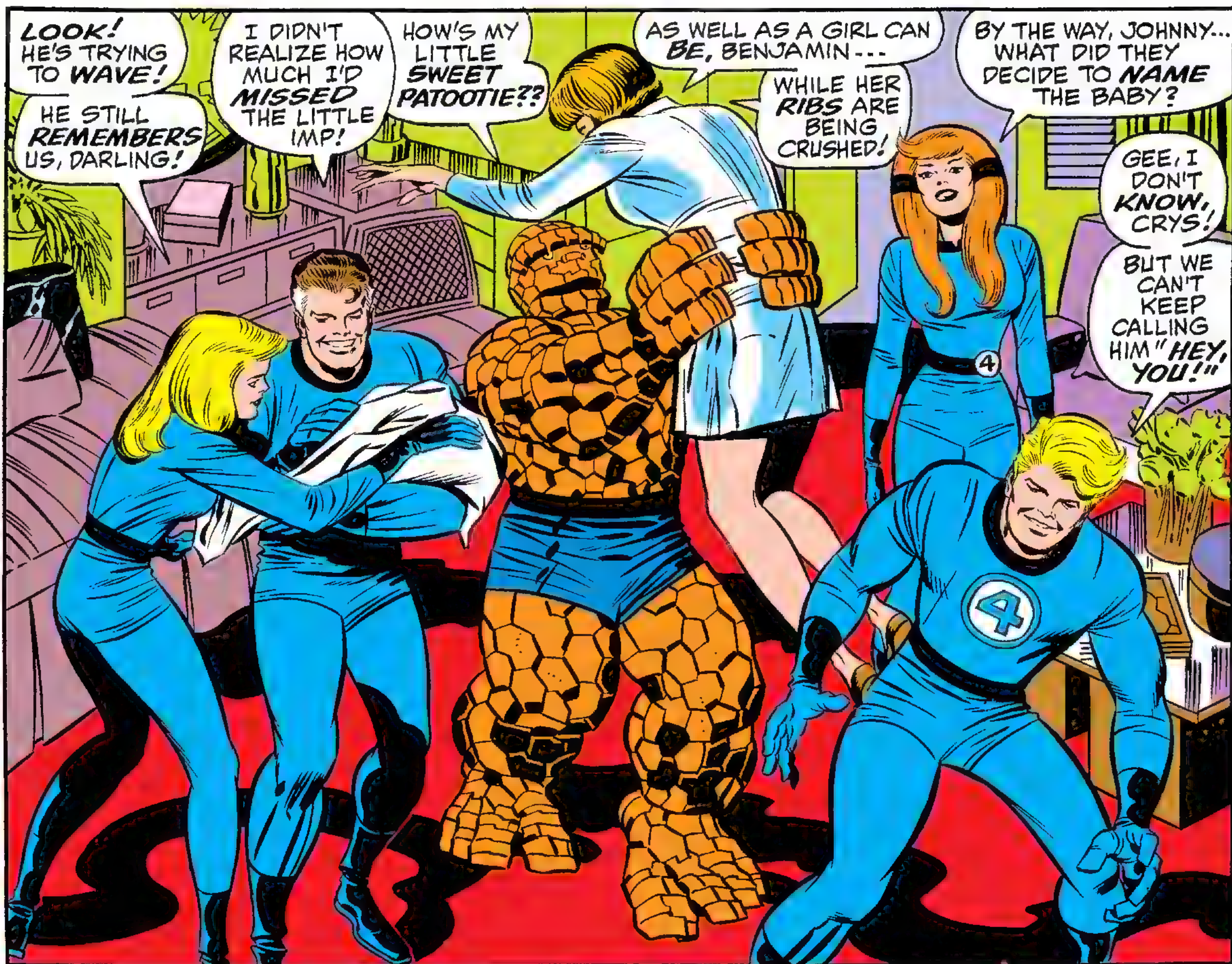
I THOUGHT HE'D BE OUT CHASING BAD GUYS BY NOW!

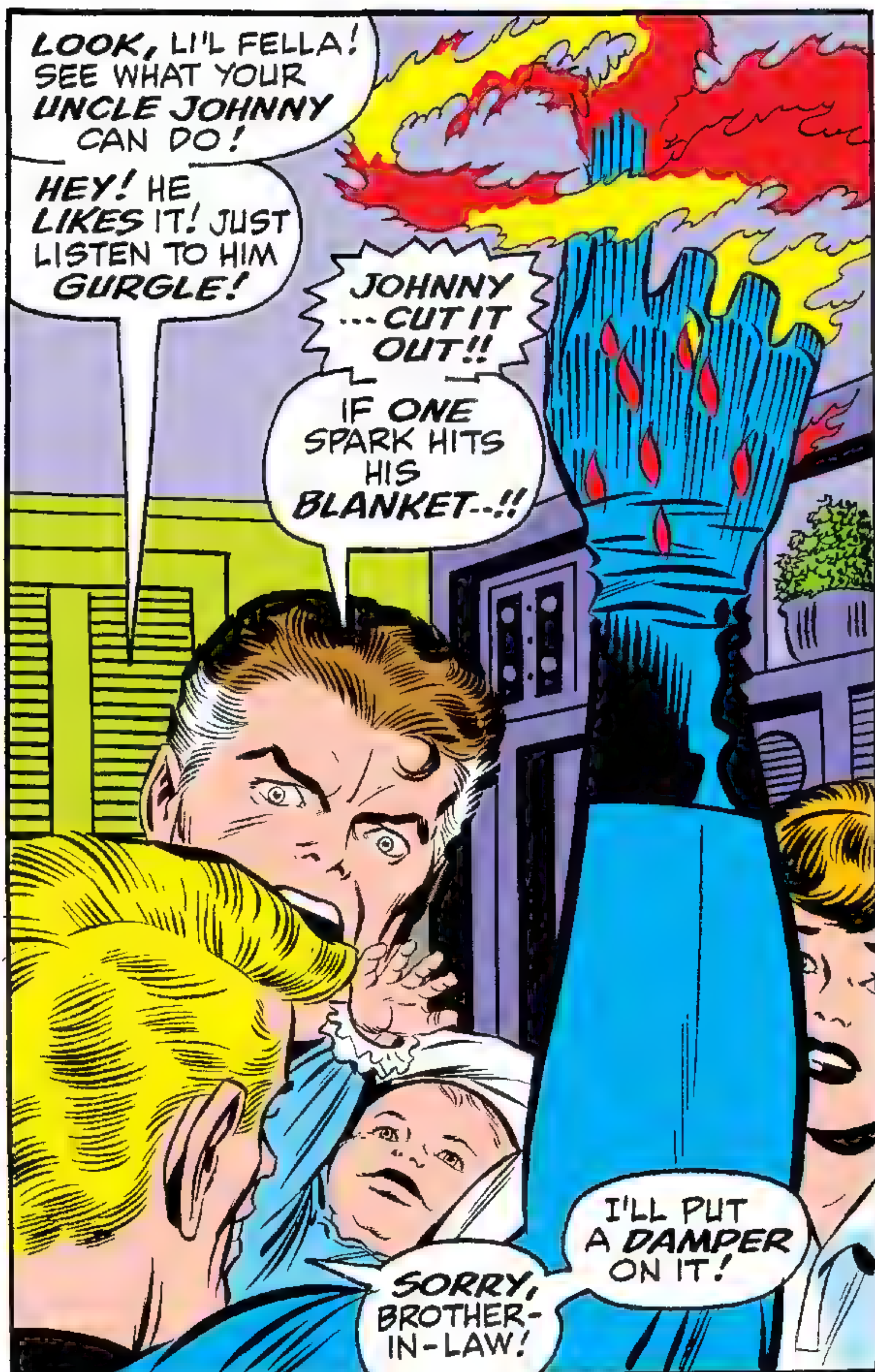
WE WERE SO ANXIOUS TO GET BACK... WE DIDN'T EVEN STOP TO CHANGE!

YOU'VE ALL RETURNED SAFE AND SOUND --- THANK HEAVEN!

FURTHER PROOF, IF ANY BE NEEDED, THAT **STAN (THE MAN) LEE** and **JACK (KING) KIRBY** NEVER, SIMPLY NEVER, RUN OUT OF INSPIRATION!

AND NEITHER DO...
JOE SINNOTT, EMBELLISHER || **SAM ROSEN, LETTERER**





LOOK, LI'L FELLA!
SEE WHAT YOUR
UNCLE JOHNNY
CAN DO!

HEY! HE
LIKES IT! JUST
LISTEN TO HIM
GURGLE!

JOHNNY
...CUT IT
OUT!!

IF ONE
SPARK HITS
HIS
BLANKET--!!

I'LL PUT
A **DAMPER**
ON IT!

SORRY,
BROTHER-
IN-LAW!



IF YOU GENTLE-
MEN WILL
EXCUSE ME...
IT'S TIME FOR
HIS **MOTHER**
TO TAKE OVER
NOW!

I JUST **THUNK**... WHEN
THEY WANNA TELL 'IM
BEDTIME STORIES,
THEY DON'T HAVETA MAKE
NONE **UP!**

ALL THEY GOTTA **DO** IS
CLUE 'IM IN ABOUT **DOC**
DOOM, GALACTUS, 'N ALL
OUR OTHER NUTTY PLAY-
MATES!

SMILE,
HALF-PINT
...IT WUZ A
GAG!



SOME GAG! THEIR BIGGEST **WORRY** IS HOW TO
PROTECT THE LITTLE GUY FROM ALL THE
CREEPY **SUPER-VILLAINS** WE'RE ALWAYS
FIGHTING!

ARE YOU **KIDDIN'??** NOBODY'S
GOTTA WORRY ABOUT **PERTECTION**
WITH A BLUE-EYED BOMBSHELL LIKE
ME HANGIN' AROUND!!

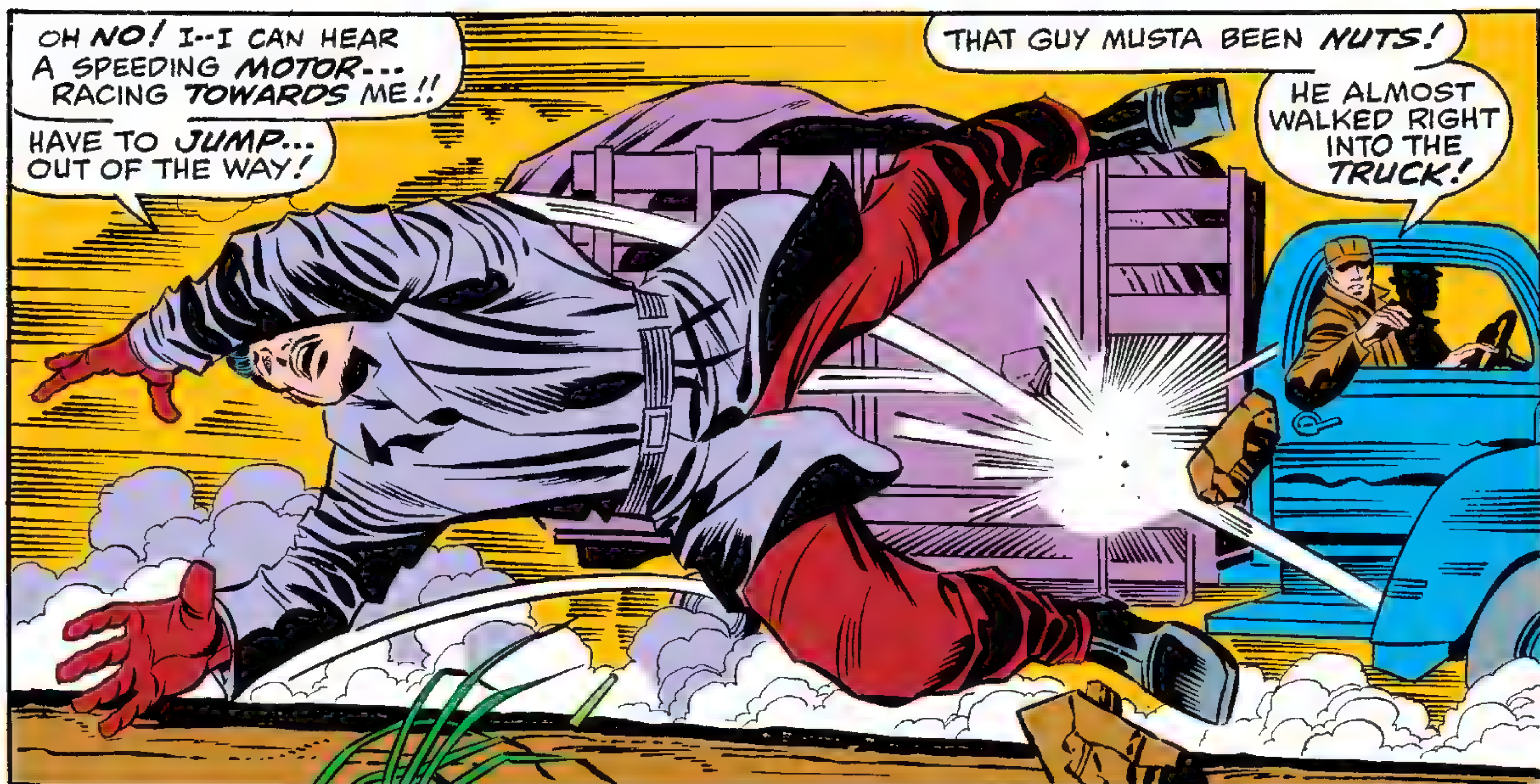
ANYWAY, **THAT'S** THE REASON
THEY WANT A **HOUSE**
THAT'LL BE HARD FOR
PEOPLE TO **FIND!**

...LIKE
THE ONE WE'RE
LOOKING AT
LATER ON!



BUT, BEFORE OUR GALLANT **GROUP** HEADS
FOR THE HOUSE IN QUESTION, **WE'RE** GONNA
REACH THE NEIGHBORHOOD **FIRST...** WHERE
WE SUDDENLY FIND...

MY **EYES!!** I-I'M
BLINDED! I CAN'T
SEE!!



OH NO! I--I CAN HEAR
A SPEEDING MOTOR...
RACING TOWARDS ME!!

HAVE TO JUMP...
OUT OF THE WAY!

THAT GUY MUSTA BEEN NUTS!

HE ALMOST
WALKED RIGHT
INTO THE
TRUCK!



HEY, MAC...
WHAT GIVES?
ARE YA OKAY?

I...DON'T
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED...
TO ME!

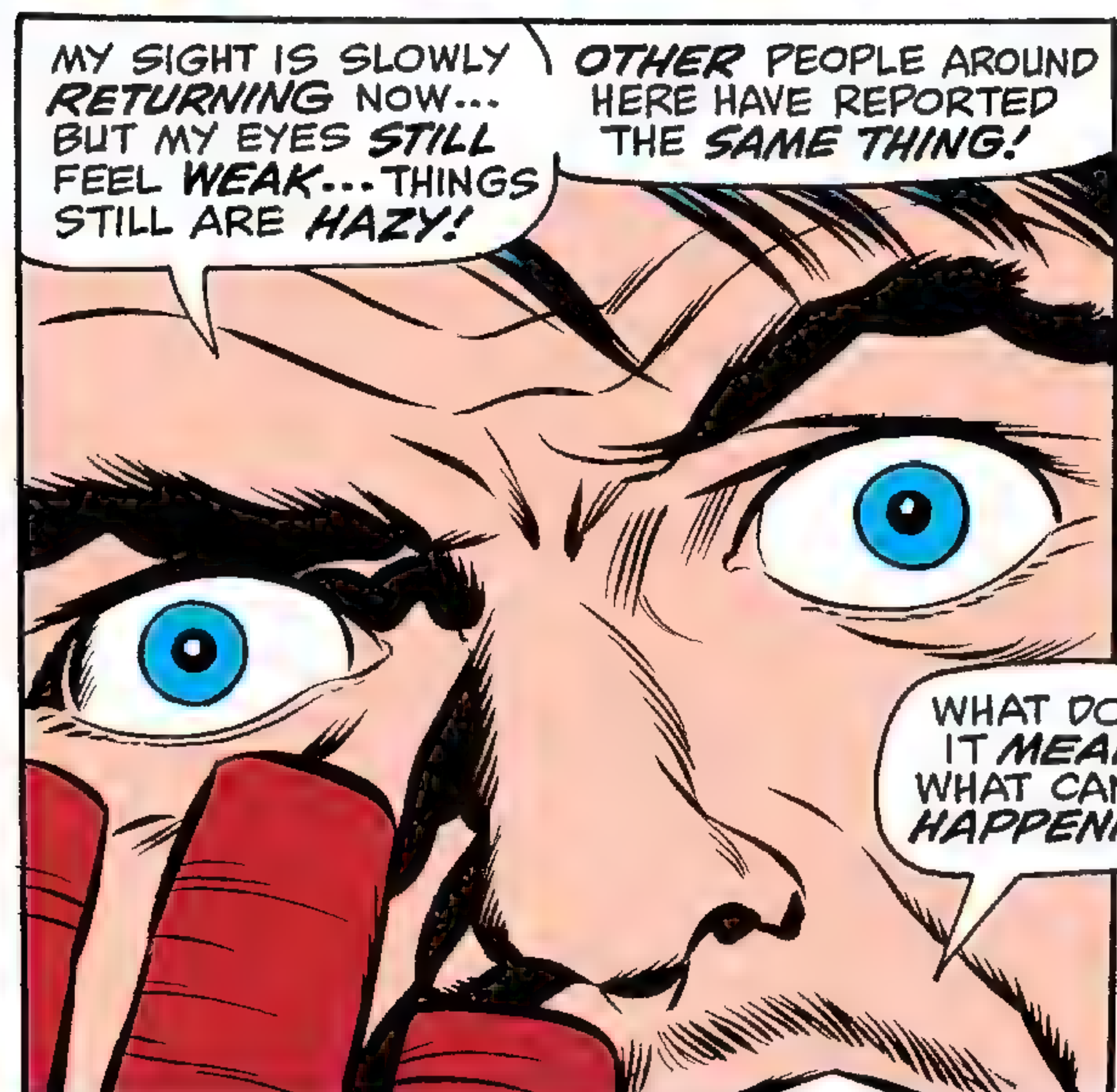
IT'S ALL SO
CRAZY...
SO TOTAL-
LY UN-
REAL!



I WAS WALKING MY DOG...
OVER THERE...IN THE WOODS!

SUDDENLY...THERE WAS
A DAZZLING LIGHT...
WHICH SEEMED TO GO
RIGHT THROUGH ME!

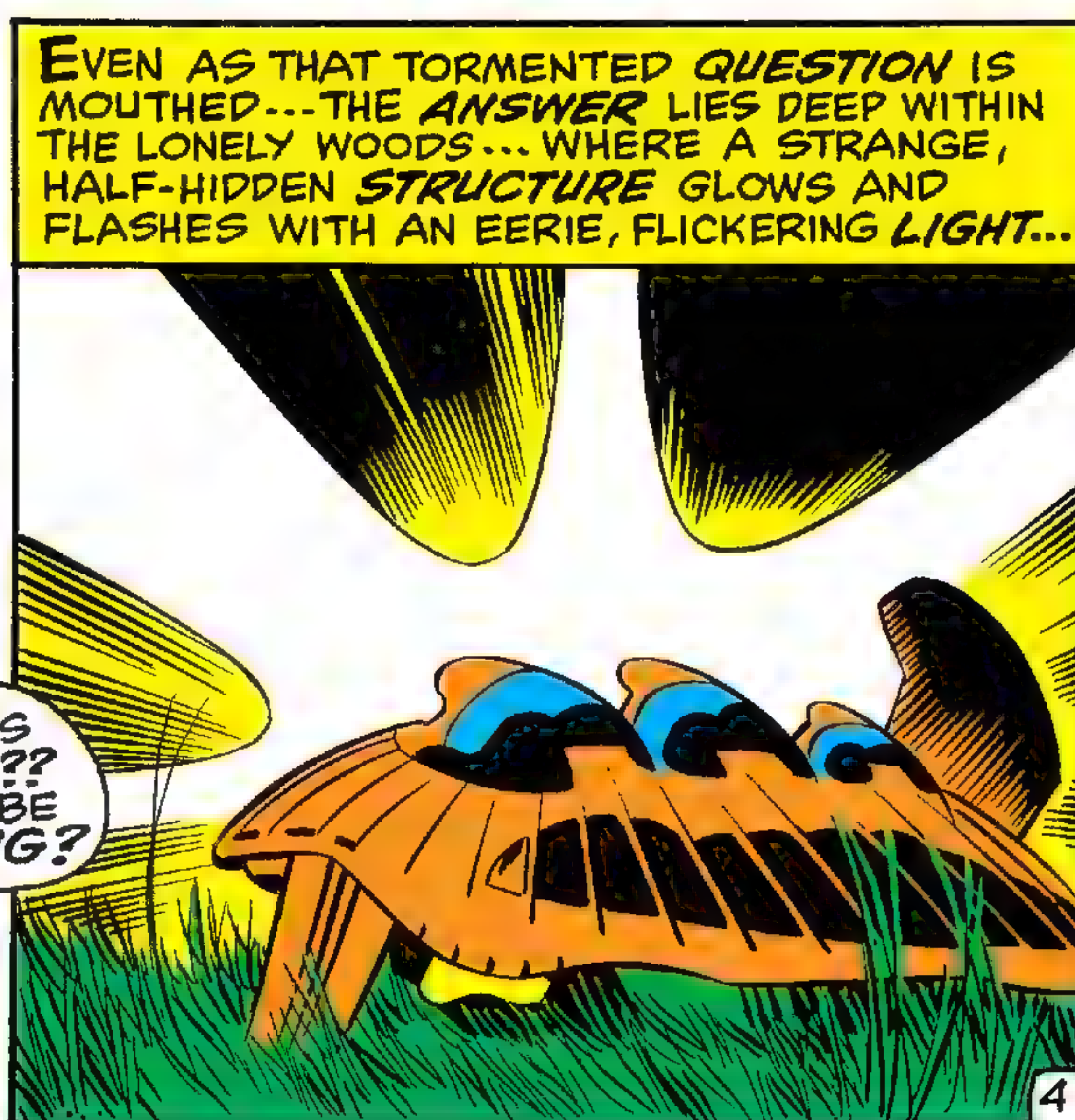
SECONDS
LATER... I
WAS BLIND!



MY SIGHT IS SLOWLY
RETURNING NOW...
BUT MY EYES STILL
FEEL WEAK...THINGS
STILL ARE HAZY!

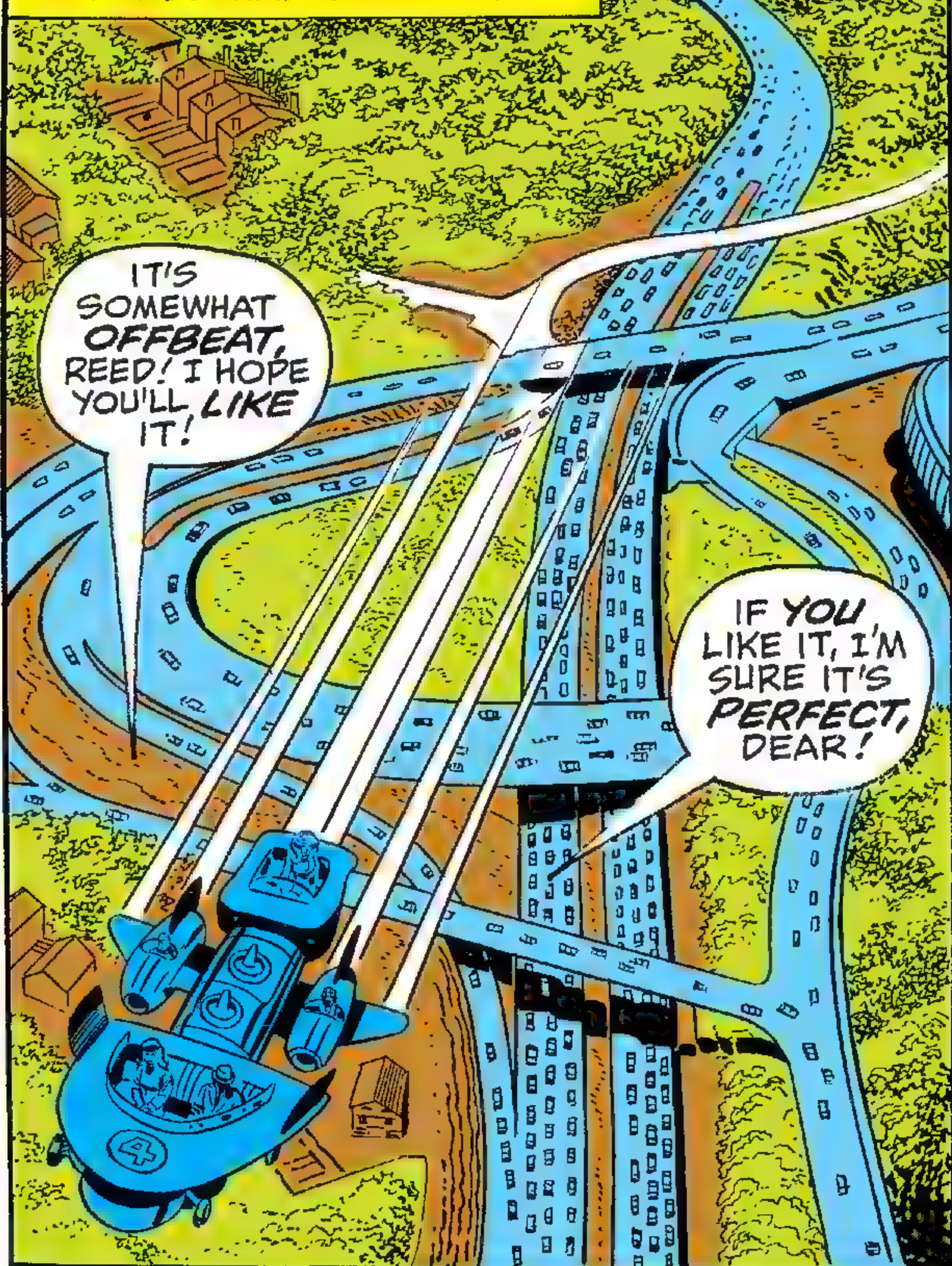
OTHER PEOPLE AROUND
HERE HAVE REPORTED
THE SAME THING!

WHAT DOES
IT MEAN??
WHAT CAN BE
HAPPENING?



EVEN AS THAT TORMENTED QUESTION IS
MOUTHED...THE ANSWER LIES DEEP WITHIN
THE LONELY WOODS... WHERE A STRANGE,
HALF-HIDDEN STRUCTURE GLOWS AND
FLASHES WITH AN EERIE, FLICKERING LIGHT...

MINUTES LATER, USING THEIR EASILY-MANEUVERABLE **FANTASTI-CAR** TO BYPASS THE HEAVY TRAFFIC BELOW, THE FABULOUS **F.F. SPEEDS** TO THE SITE OF THE **HOUSE** WHICH **SUE RICHARDS** HAS SELECTED...

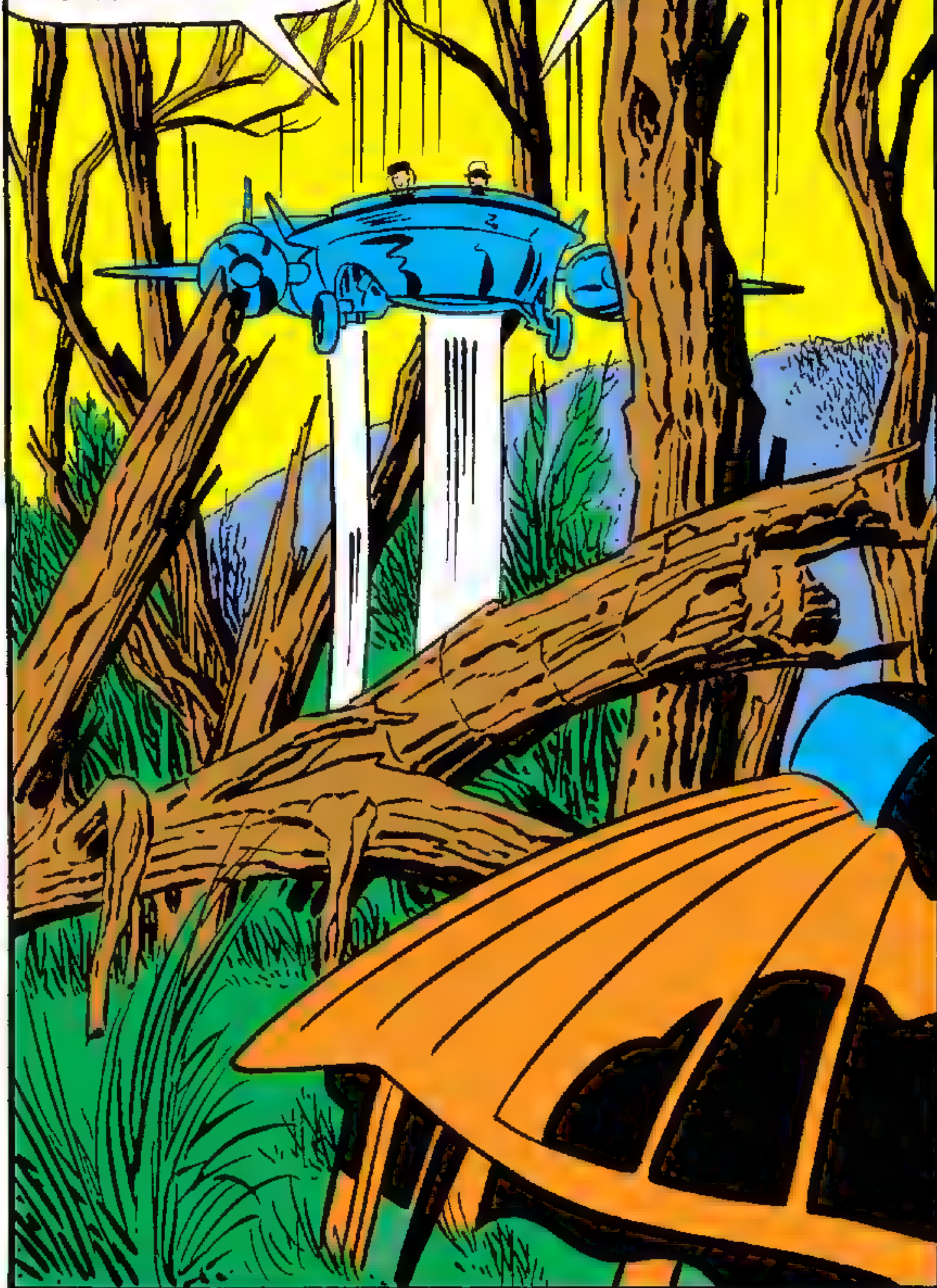


IT'S SOMEWHAT **OFFBEAT**, REED! I HOPE YOU'LL LIKE IT!

IF YOU LIKE IT, I'M SURE IT'S **PERFECT**, DEAR!

THE AREA IS SO **ISOLATED** THAT CELEBRITY HUNTERS AND FANS WILL JUST **NEVER** FIND US!

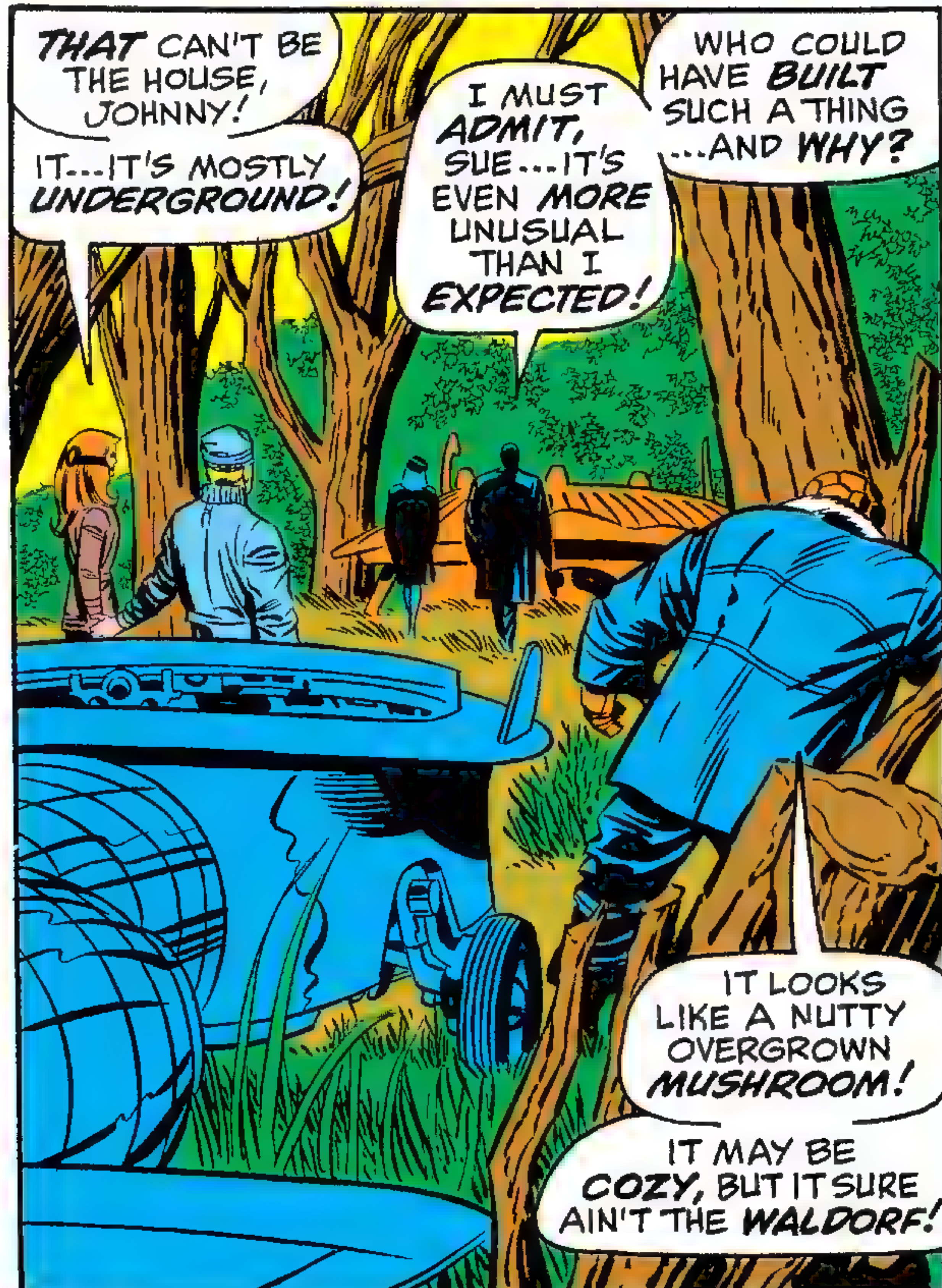
GOOD! AN NO INNOCENT **NEIGHBORS** MUST BE ENDANGERED BY ANY OF MY **EXPERIMENTS!**



THAT CAN'T BE THE HOUSE, JOHNNY!
IT...IT'S MOSTLY **UNDERGROUND!**

I MUST **ADMIT**, SUE...IT'S EVEN **MORE** UNUSUAL THAN I **EXPECTED!**

WHO COULD HAVE **BUILT** SUCH A THING ...AND **WHY?**



IT LOOKS LIKE A NUTTY OVERGROWN **MUSHROOM!**

IT MAY BE **COZY**, BUT IT SURE AIN'T THE **WALDORF!**

HOW DID YOU **LEARN** OF THIS PLACE, HONEY? WHO **SHOWED** IT TO YOU?

IT WAS JUST AN ORDINARY **REAL ESTATE AGENT!**

HE SAID IT'S BEEN HERE FOR **MONTHS**... NO ONE KNOWS WHO **BUILT** IT...OR **WHY!**

ONE THING'S FOR SURE...IT CERTAINLY CAN'T BE **EXPENSIVE** 'WAY OUT HERE!



LET'S GO IN, REED!

HE SAID WE COULD SEE IT **ANY** TIME!

WITH OUR **FANTASTI-CAR** AND **POGO PLANE** AVAILABLE TO US, WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE LACK OF **GOOD ROADS!**

BUT WHAT ABOUT A **SCHOOL, SUE...** FOR OUR **SON?**

WHAT'S THE **RUSH, STRETCHO?**

HE AIN'T EVEN LEARNED TO SIT HIMSELF **UP** YET!

A PARENT **MUST** CONSIDER THE **FUTURE, MR. GRIMM!**

AFTER ALL, THE WELFARE OF YOUR **CHILD** MUST ALWAYS COME BEFORE ANYTHING **ELSE!**

CAREFUL, CRYSTAL... YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE A **FEMALE DOC SPOCK!**

THERE'S A **LOVELY** SCHOOL JUST A FEW MILES AWAY, DEAR...

I'VE ALREADY **CHECKED!**

OH, LOOK... PART OF THE WALL IS BEGINNING TO **SLIDE OPEN...!!**

IT MUST WORK **AUTOMATICALLY!**



THERE'S SOME SORT OF LONG **ENTRANCE RAMP** INSIDE... LEADING **DOWNWARD!**

I'VE...NEVER SEEN A **HOUSE...OR ANY BUILDING** LIKE THIS **BEFORE!**

ONE THING WE'LL ALL HAVE TO **ADMIT...IT CERTAINLY IS DIFFERENT!**

YEP! YOU WON'T FEEL AS THOUGH YOU'RE PART OF A **DEVELOPMENT PROJECT** IN THIS PLACE!

BOY... IT SURE IS SOLID!

I'LL BET YOU COULD LAUGH OFF AN **ATOMIC ATTACK** IN HERE!

IT'S PROBABLY SOME KINDA **DIZZY WORLD'S FAIR REJECT** IF YA ASK ME!

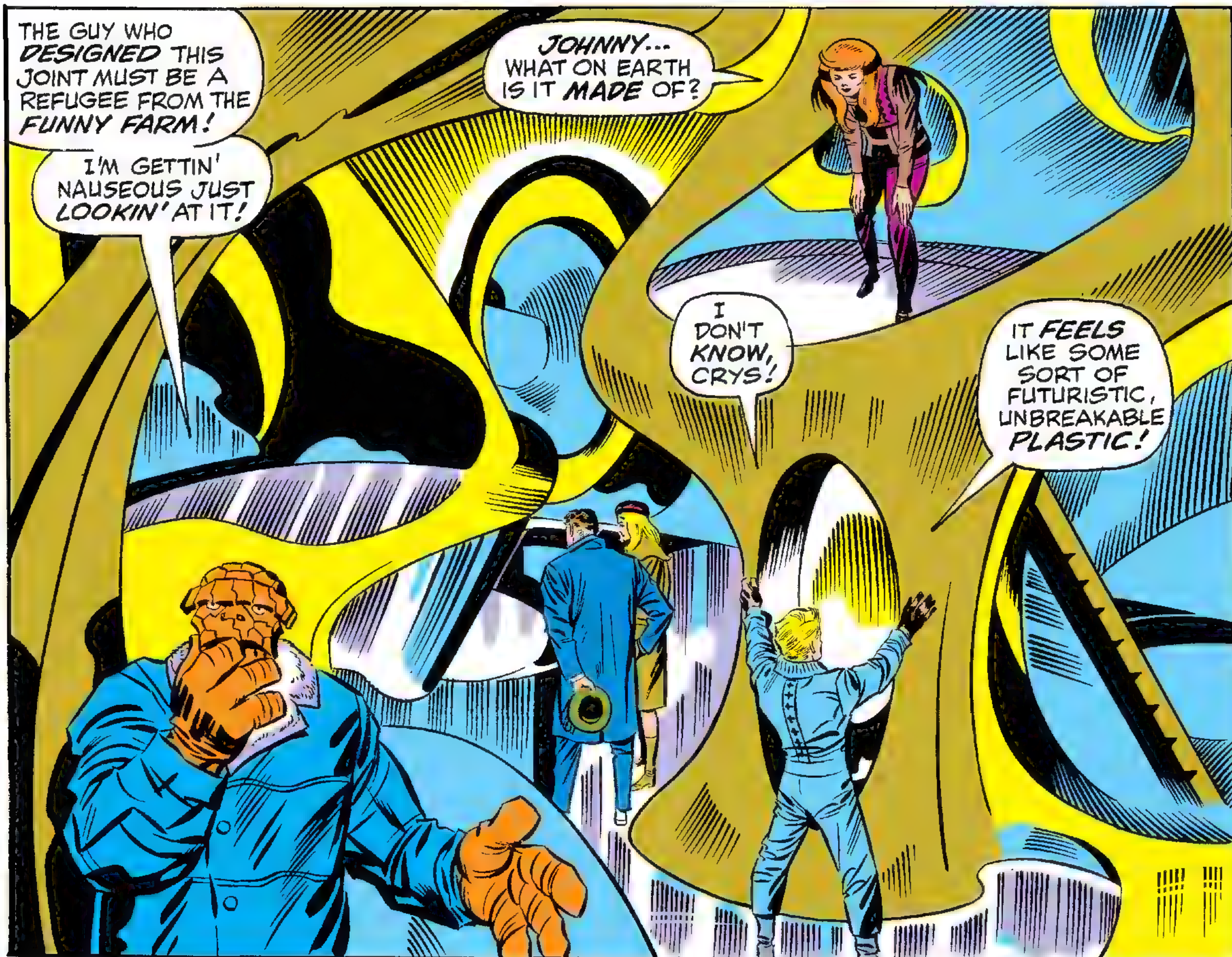
OKAY... SO DON'T ASK ME!

WHOEVER **BUILT IT,** MADE IT LIKE A **FORTRESS!**

BUT, I WONDER **WHY??**

DON'T GO **FLAMIN' ON,** JUNIOR...TILL YA FIND OUT IF IT'S **FIRE-PROOF!**





THE GUY WHO **DESIGNED** THIS JOINT MUST BE A REFUGEE FROM THE **FUNNY FARM!**

I'M GETTIN' NAUSEOUS JUST LOOKIN' AT IT!

JOHNNY... WHAT ON EARTH IS IT **MADE OF?**

I DON'T KNOW, CRYSTAL!

IT FEELS LIKE SOME SORT OF FUTURISTIC, UNBREAKABLE **PLASTIC!**

REED, I KNEW IT WAS **UNUSUAL...**

BUT I NEVER **DREAMT** IT WOULD BE AS STARTLING AS **THIS!**

I CAN'T **EXPLAIN** IT... BUT THE MORE I **SEE**, THE MORE **APPREHENSIVE** I BECOME!

AND THAT LOW, PERSISTENT **HUM**, WHICH NEVER SEEMS TO **STOP...**

TOO BAD THEY CAN'T INVENT NO SOUND THAT'LL MAKE IT HARD FOR YA TO **TALK!**

IT MAKES IT HARD TO **THINK...** MY HEAD IS **THROBBING SO!**

THAT WOULD **REALLY** BE A GAS!

THIS IS **MORE** THAN JUST THE WORK OF AN **ECCENTRIC** BUILDER...

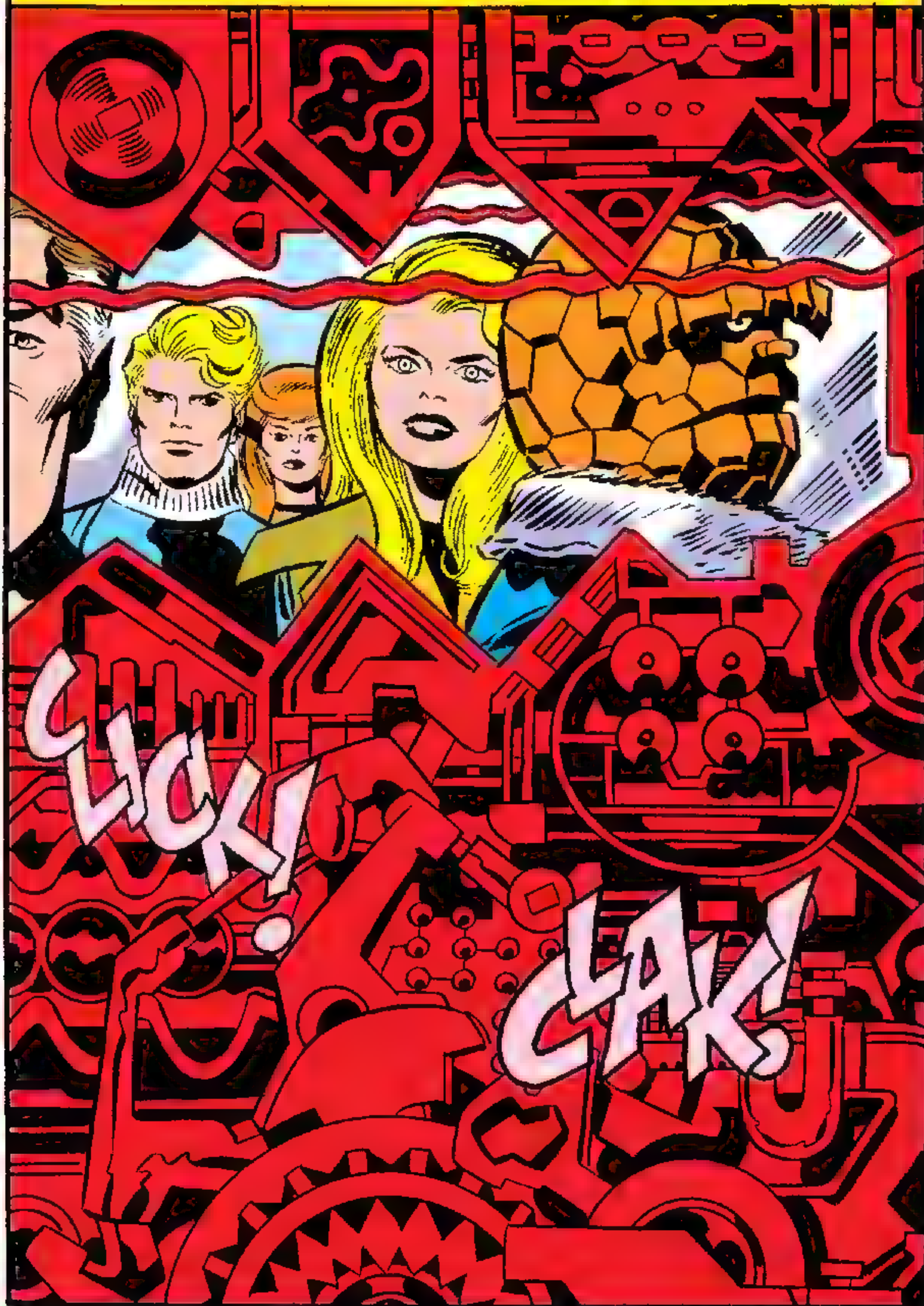
SOMEHOW... IN SOME SUBTLE WAY... I SENSE GREAT **MENACE** HERE!

I'VE NOTICED THAT HUMMING, TOO!

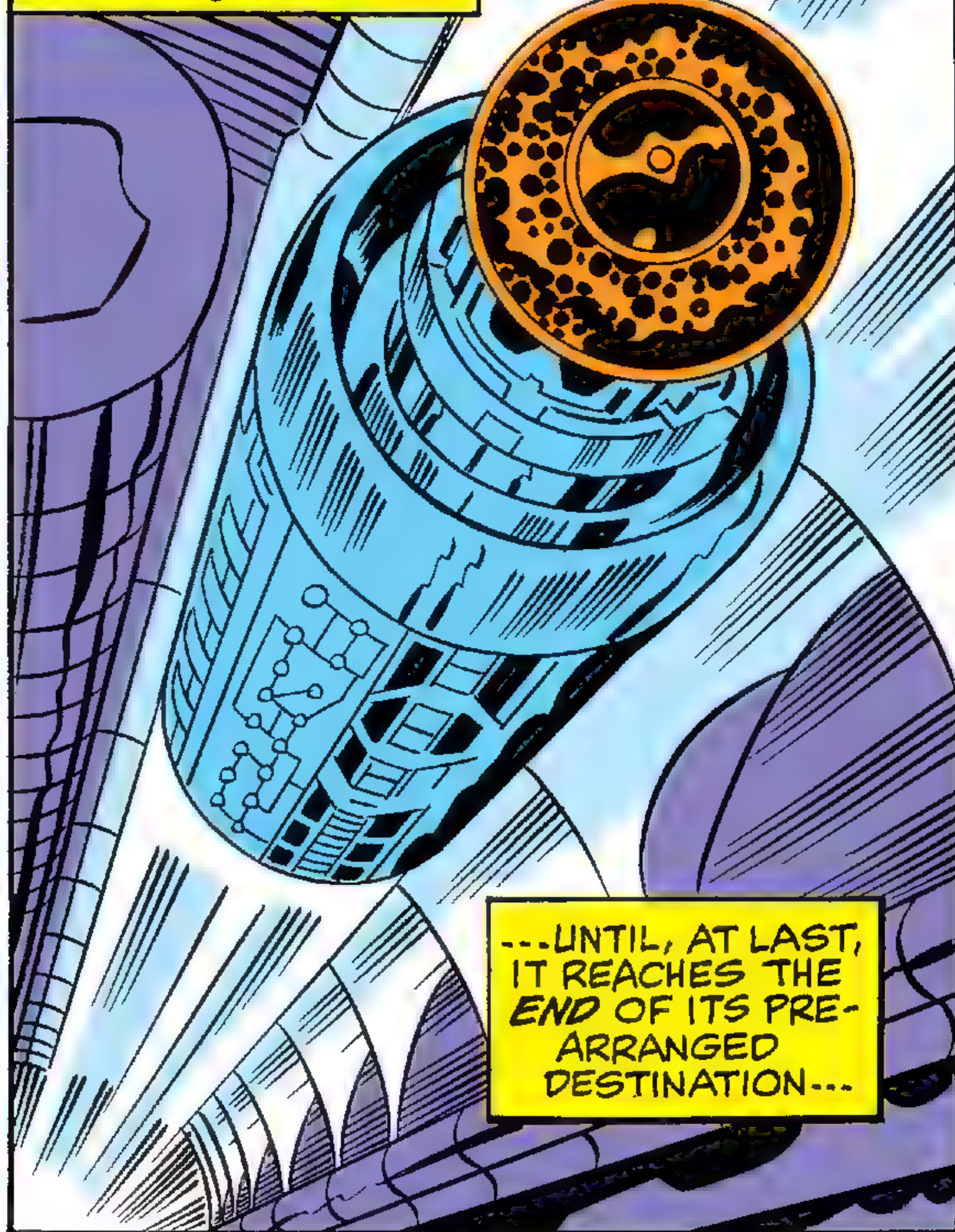
I WONDER WHAT IT CAN **BE?**

MEBBE THERE'S SOME MUSICAL **TERMITES** CHOMPIN' UP THE PLACE!

BUT, EVEN AS THEY SPEAK, A HIDDEN MAZE OF COMPLEX *CIRCUITS* OBSERVE, ANALYZE, AND RECORD OUR HEROES' EVERY ACTION...

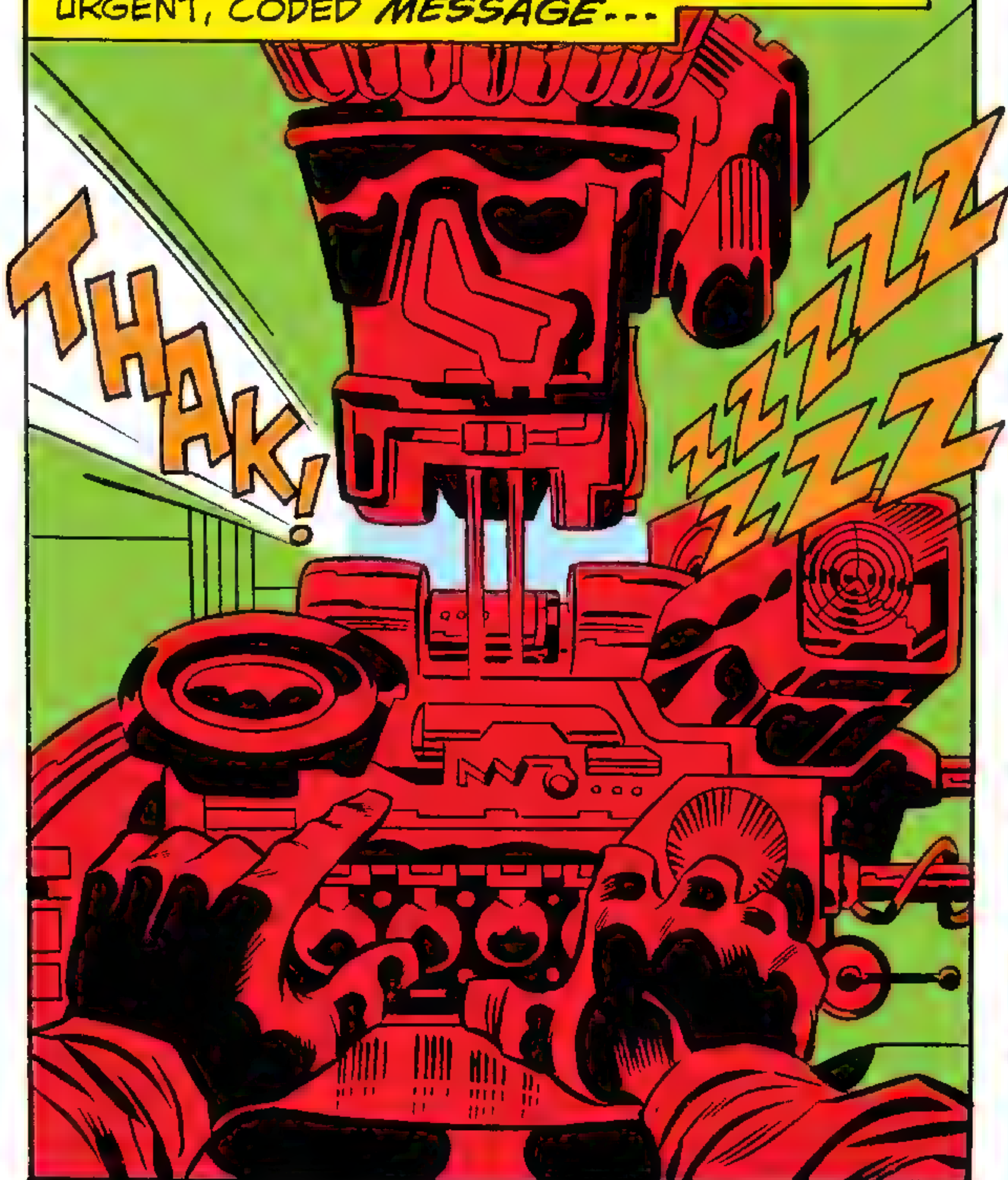


FOR THE *HOUSE ITSELF* IS MERELY A GIGANTIC COMPUTER ...FROM WHICH A DELICATE *RECORDING CYLINDER* IS SUDDENLY HURTTLED DOWN... DOWN...DOWN...



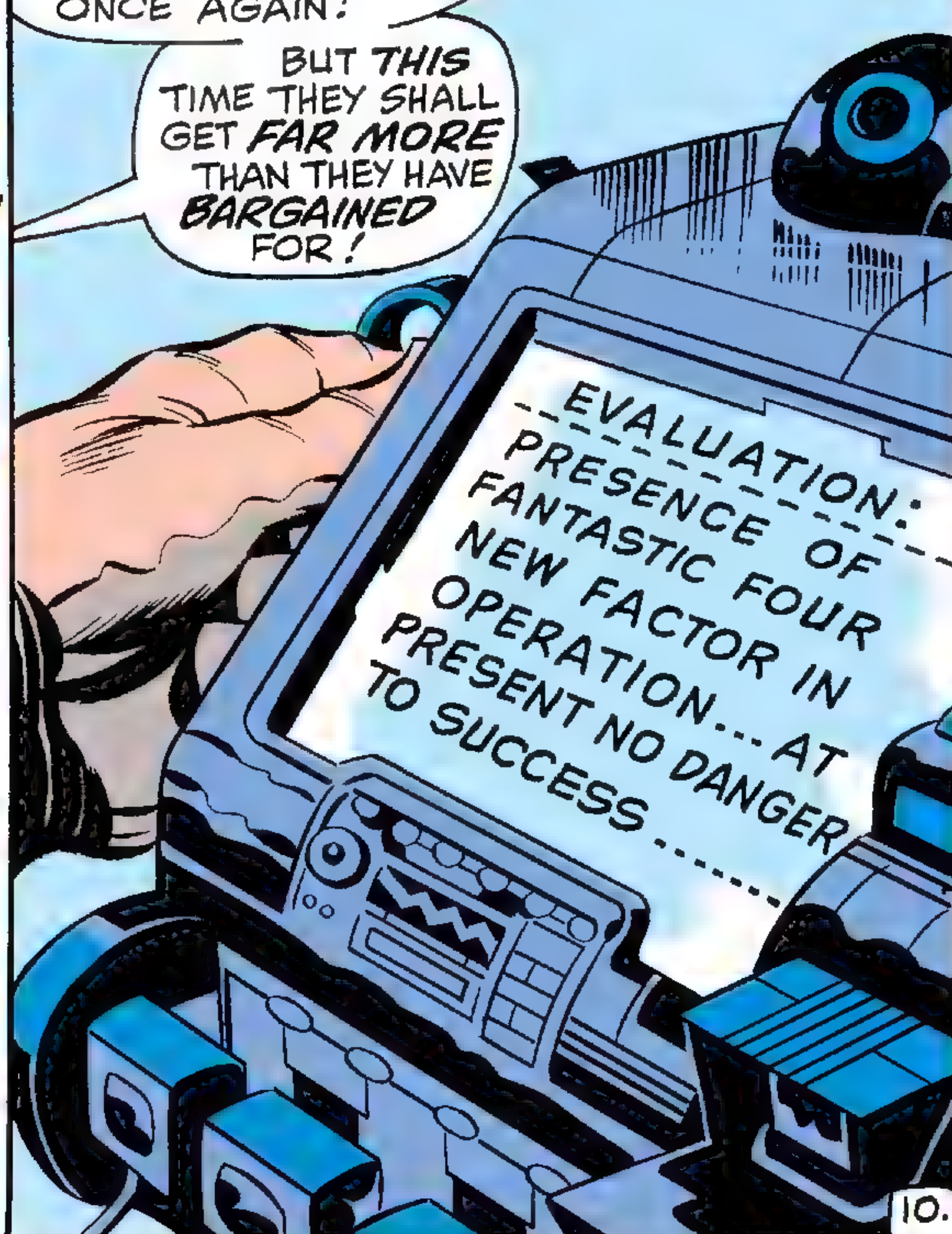
...UNTIL, AT LAST, IT REACHES THE *END* OF ITS PRE-ARRANGED DESTINATION...

INSTANTLY, IT DROPS FROM ITS *PNEUMATIC CHUTE* INTO A WAITING *DE-SCRAMBLER* WHICH AUTOMATICALLY *TRANSLATES* ITS URGENT, CODED *MESSAGE*...



SO! THE *FANTASTIC FOUR* HAVE RETURNED TO *THREATEN* ME ONCE AGAIN!

BUT *THIS* TIME THEY SHALL GET *FAR MORE* THAN THEY HAVE *BARGAINED* FOR!



EVALUATION:
PRESENCE OF
FANTASTIC FOUR
NEW FACTOR IN
OPERATION... AT
PRESENT NO DANGER
TO SUCCESS

A SHORT TIME LATER, BENJAMIN J. GRIMM VISITS THE OFFICE OF A BAXTER BUILDING EYE DOCTOR, WHERE HE HEARS...

AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, YOUR EYES ARE AS HEALTHY AS EVER!

I CAN'T SEE ANY REASON WHY THEY SHOULD ACHE, MR. GRIMM!

NEITHER CAN I!

I NEVER HAD ANY KINDA EYE TROUBLE BEFORE!

ANYWAY, LET'S JUST FORGET IT, DOC!

CAN YA IMAGINE HOW A GUY LIKE ME WOULD LOOK... IF I HADDA GO AROUND WEARIN' GOGGLES??

YOU COULD ALWAYS HAVE THEM TINTED... AND THEN NO ONE WOULD RECOGNIZE YOU!

E
P B D F
Q R T Z
G B L O P
V M F O I
A L L O U
A R E C E T R A

KNOW SOMETHIN, DOC? YER A REGULAR WOODY ALLEN!

LOOK, DON'T BLAB ABOUT ME BEIN' HERE TO THE OTHERS, HUH?

I DON'T WANT 'EM TA WORRY ABOUT ME, SEE?

...AND YA BETTER GET WIDER DOORS OR SKINNIER NURSES!

HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT SOME OF THE OTHER FF MEMBERS HAVE ALSO BEEN TO SEE ME!

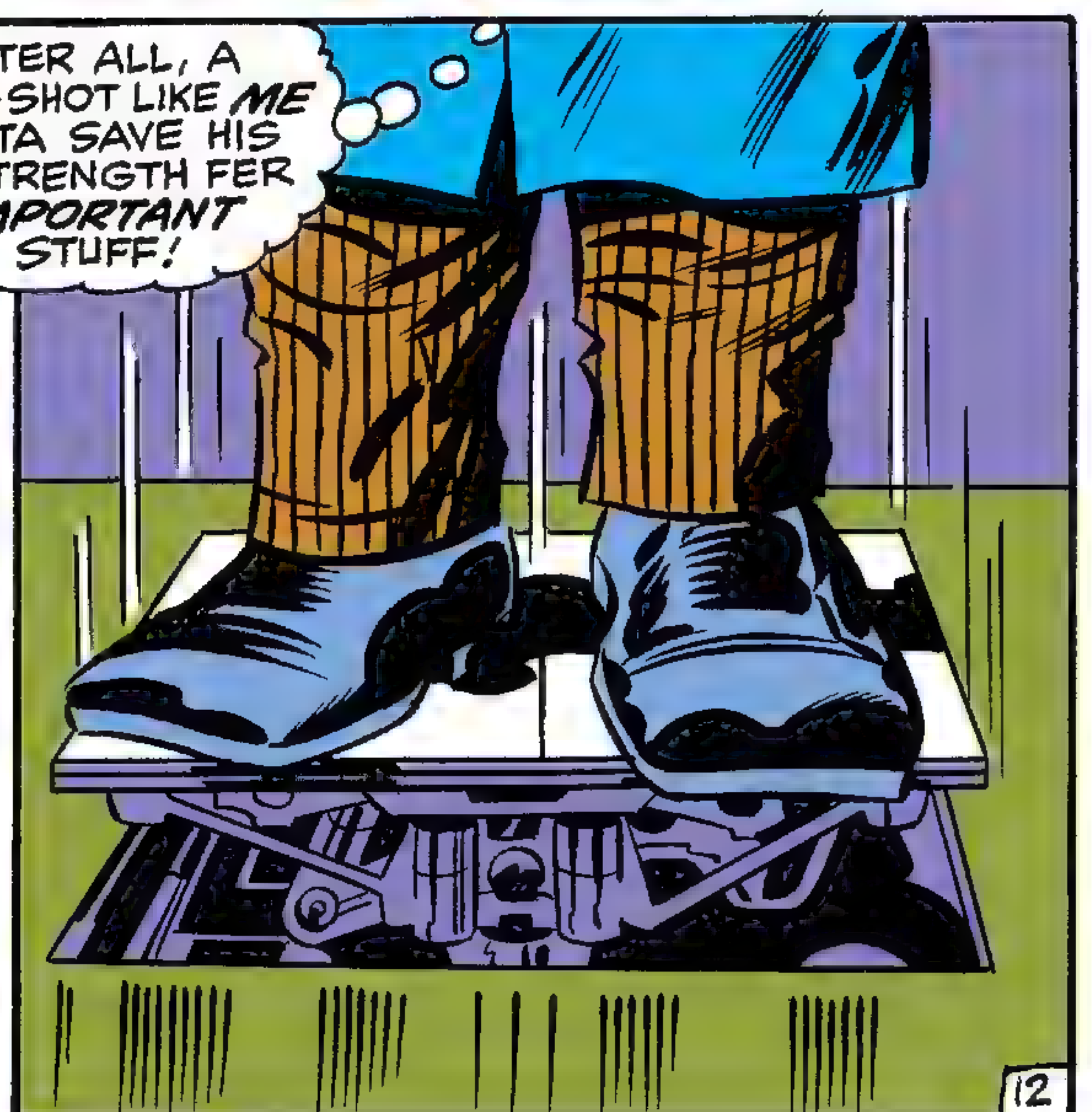
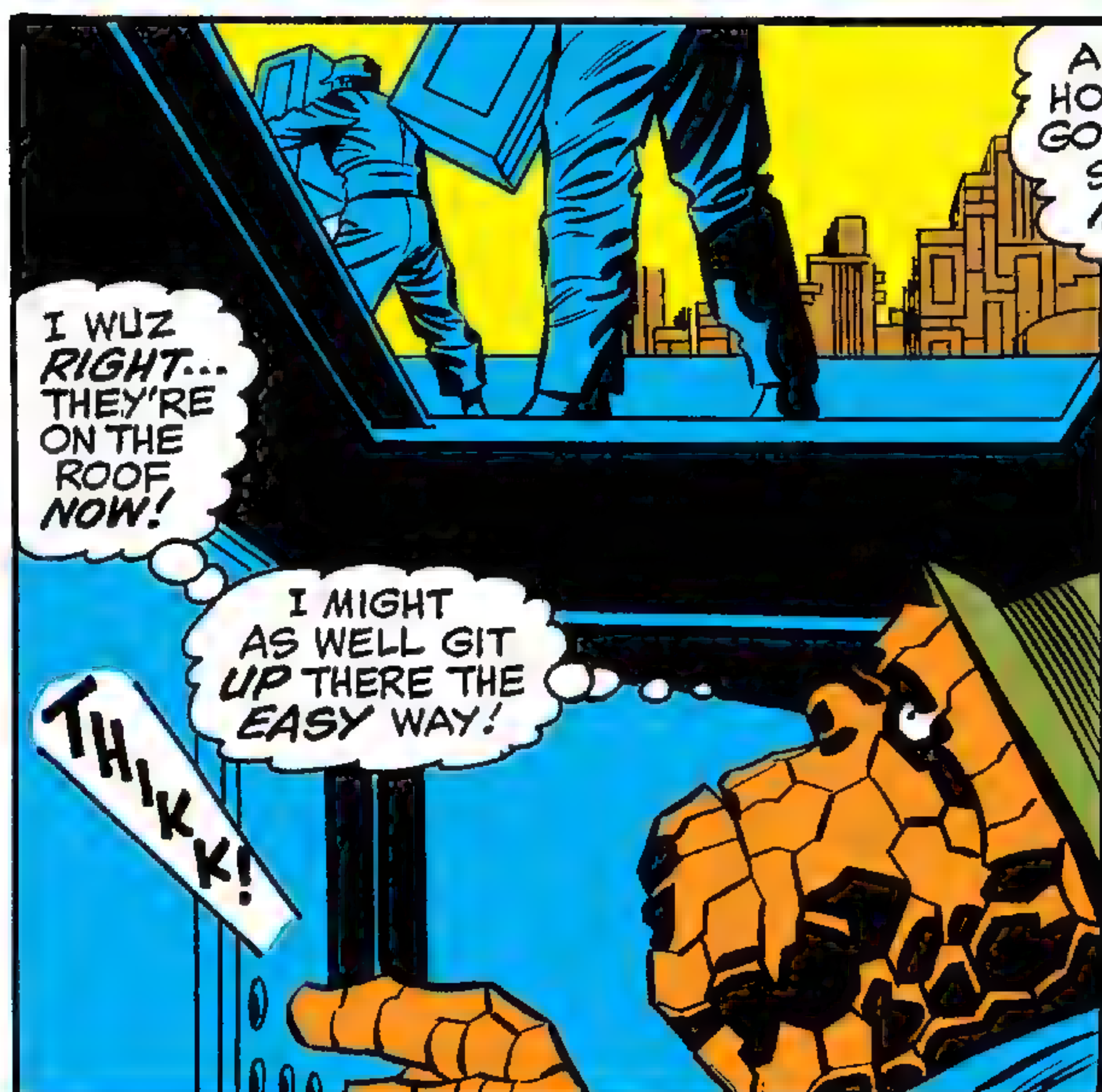
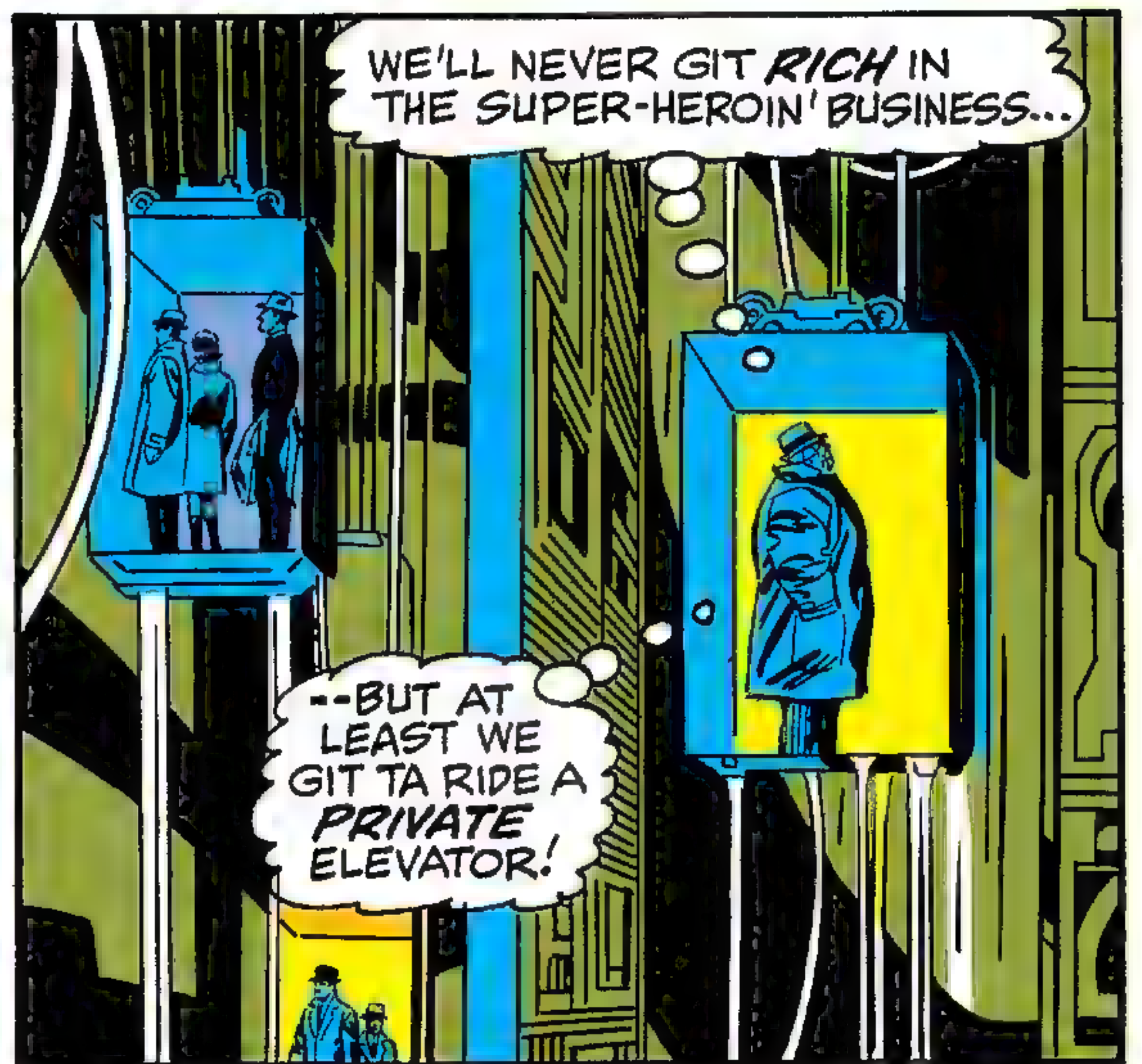
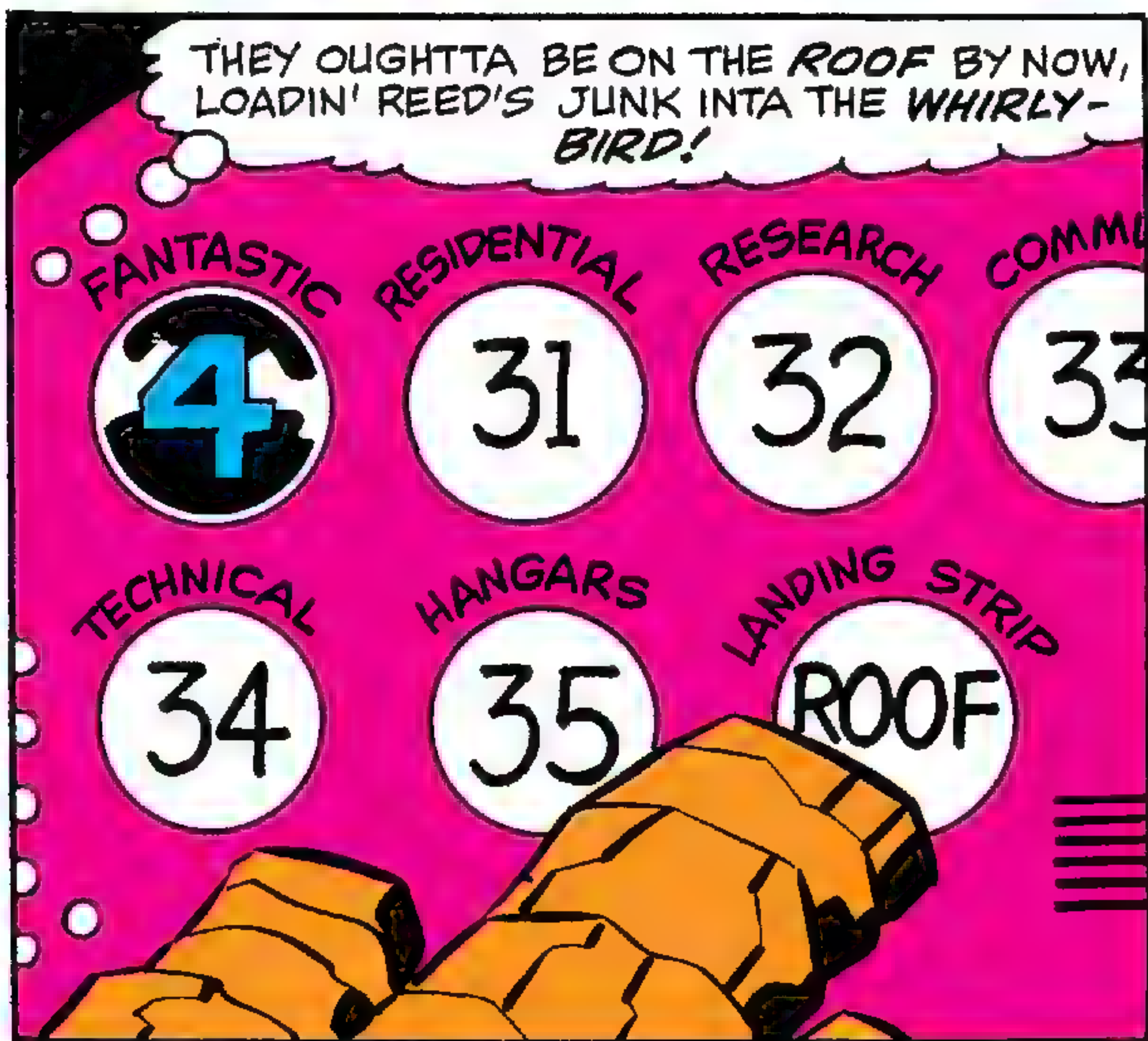
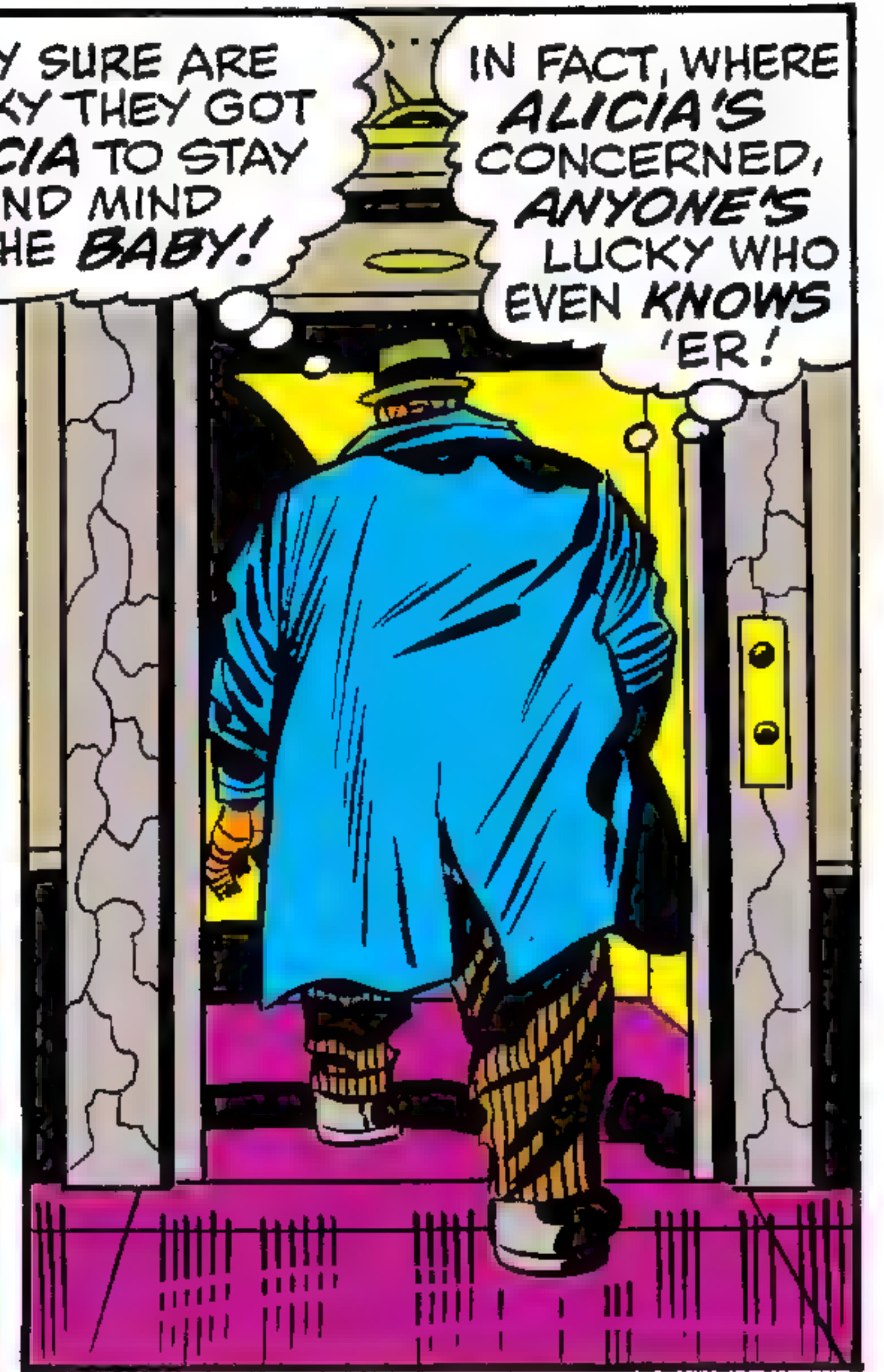
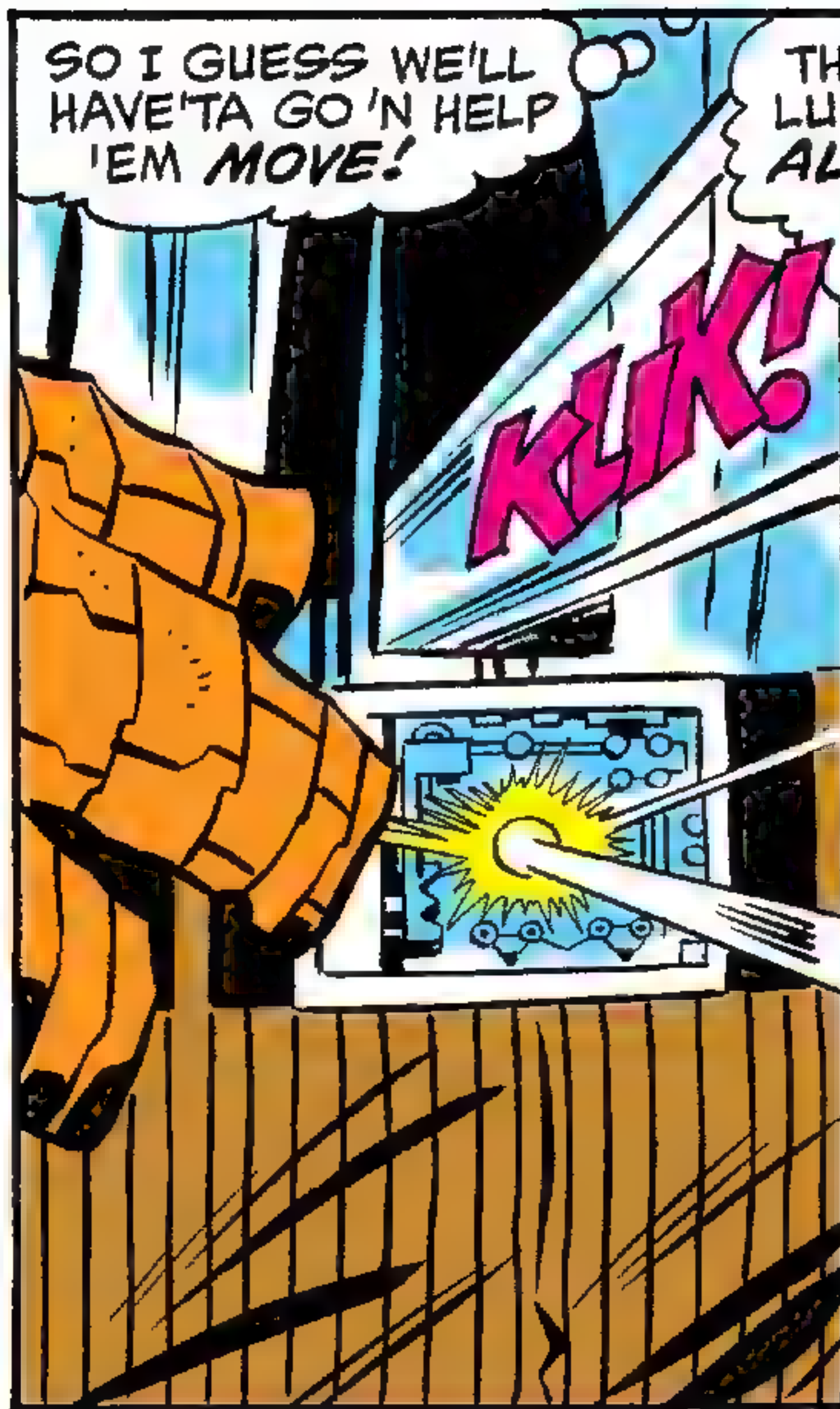
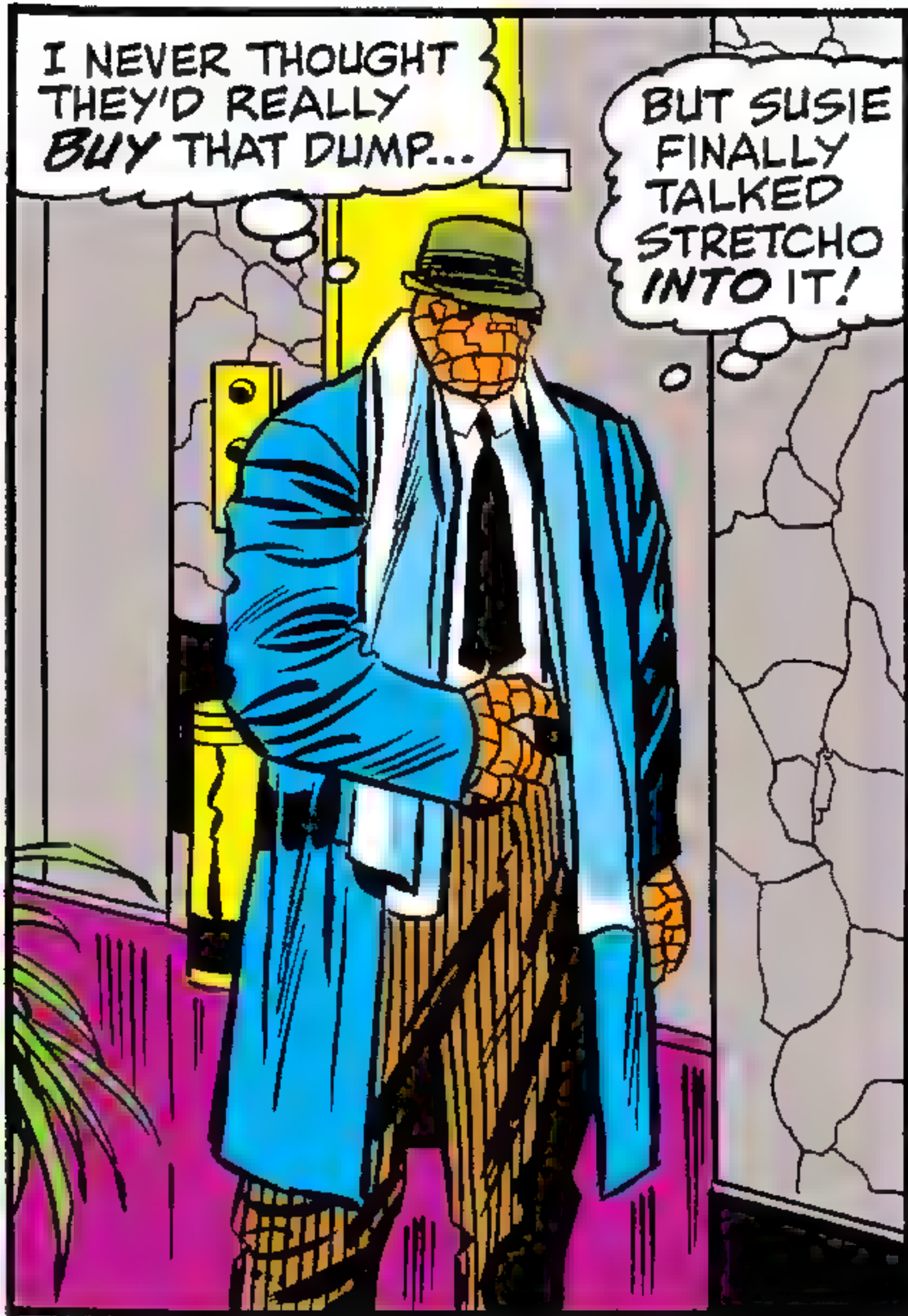
--AND WITH THE SAME COMPLAINT!

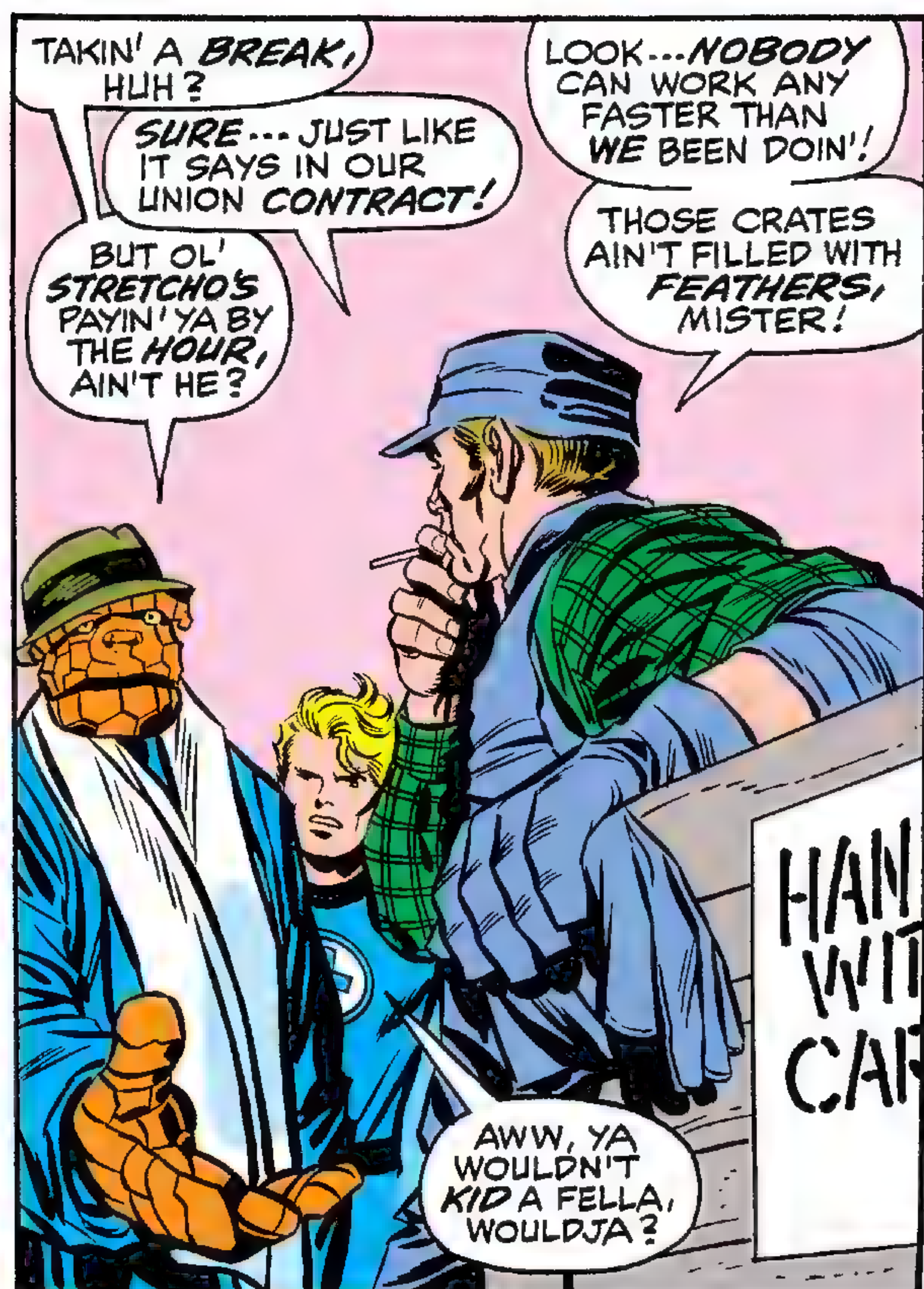
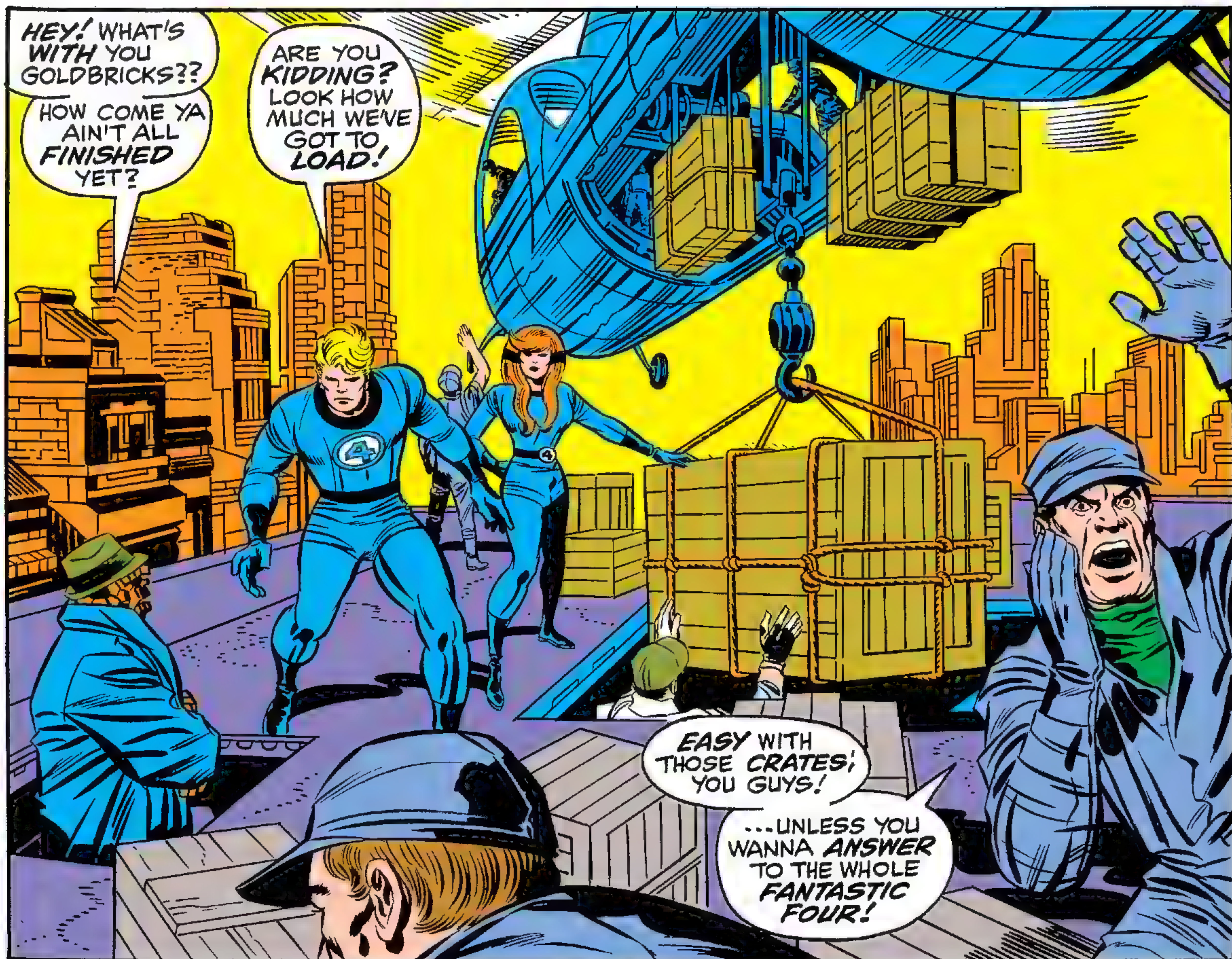
IT'S ALMOST LIKE AN EPIDEMIC, DOCTOR!

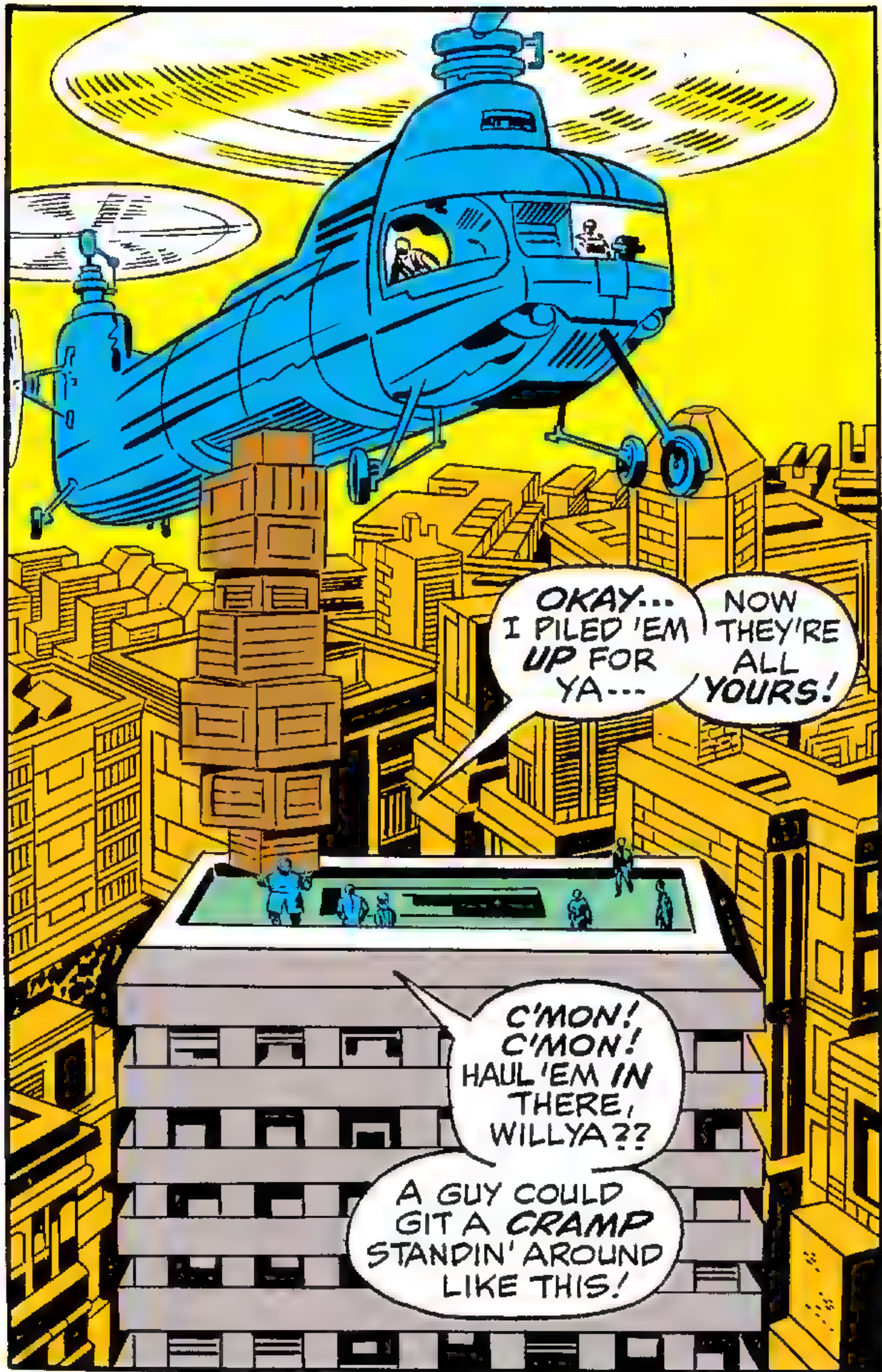
PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THIS AREA HAVE BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT THEIR EYES HURTING ...AND IMPAIRED VISION!

WHAT ON EARTH CAN IT MEAN?

I ONLY WISH I KNEW!



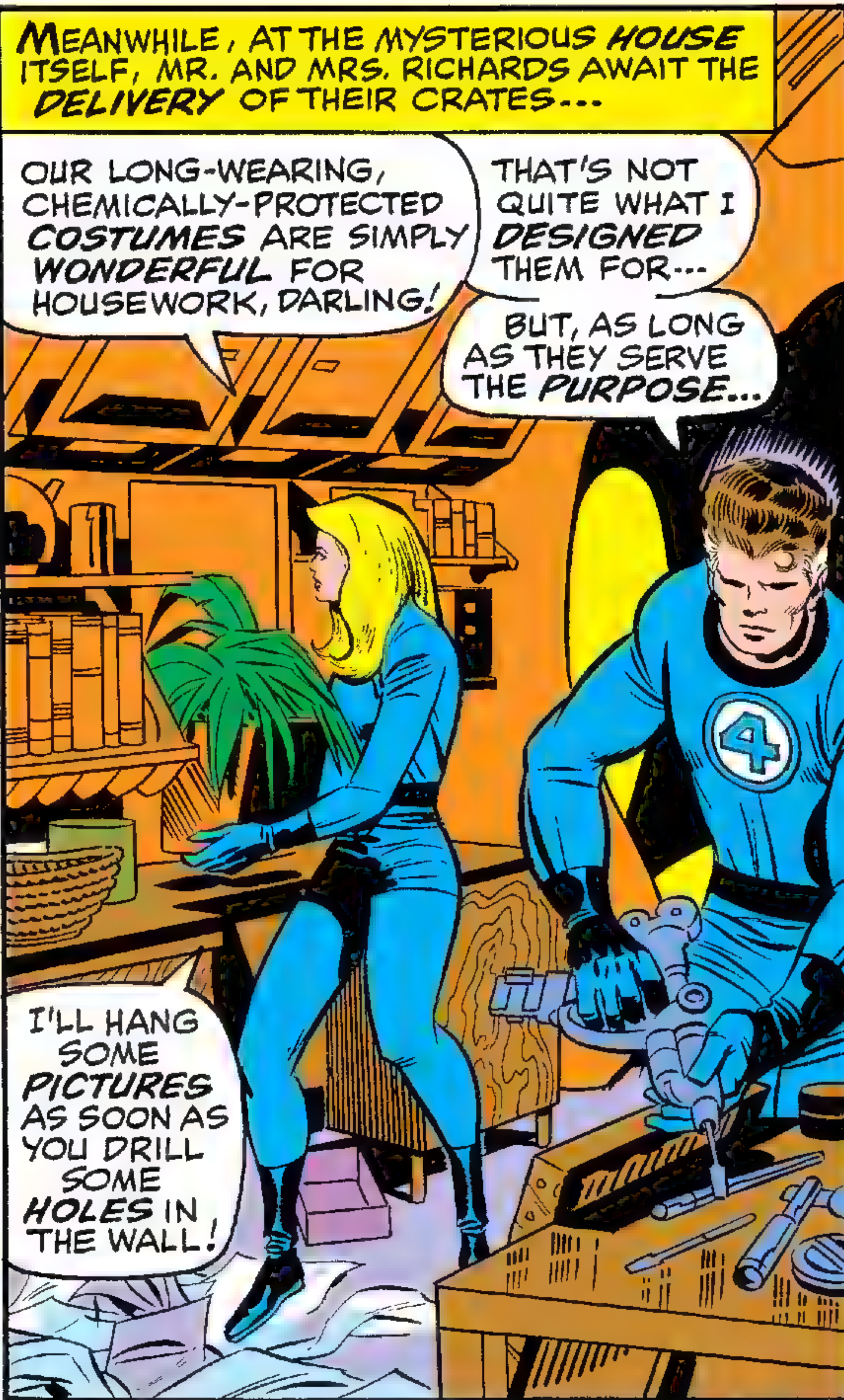




OKAY... I PILED 'EM UP FOR YA... NOW THEY'RE ALL YOURS!

C'MON! C'MON! HAUL 'EM IN THERE, WILLYA??

A GUY COULD GIT A CRAMP STANDIN' AROUND LIKE THIS!



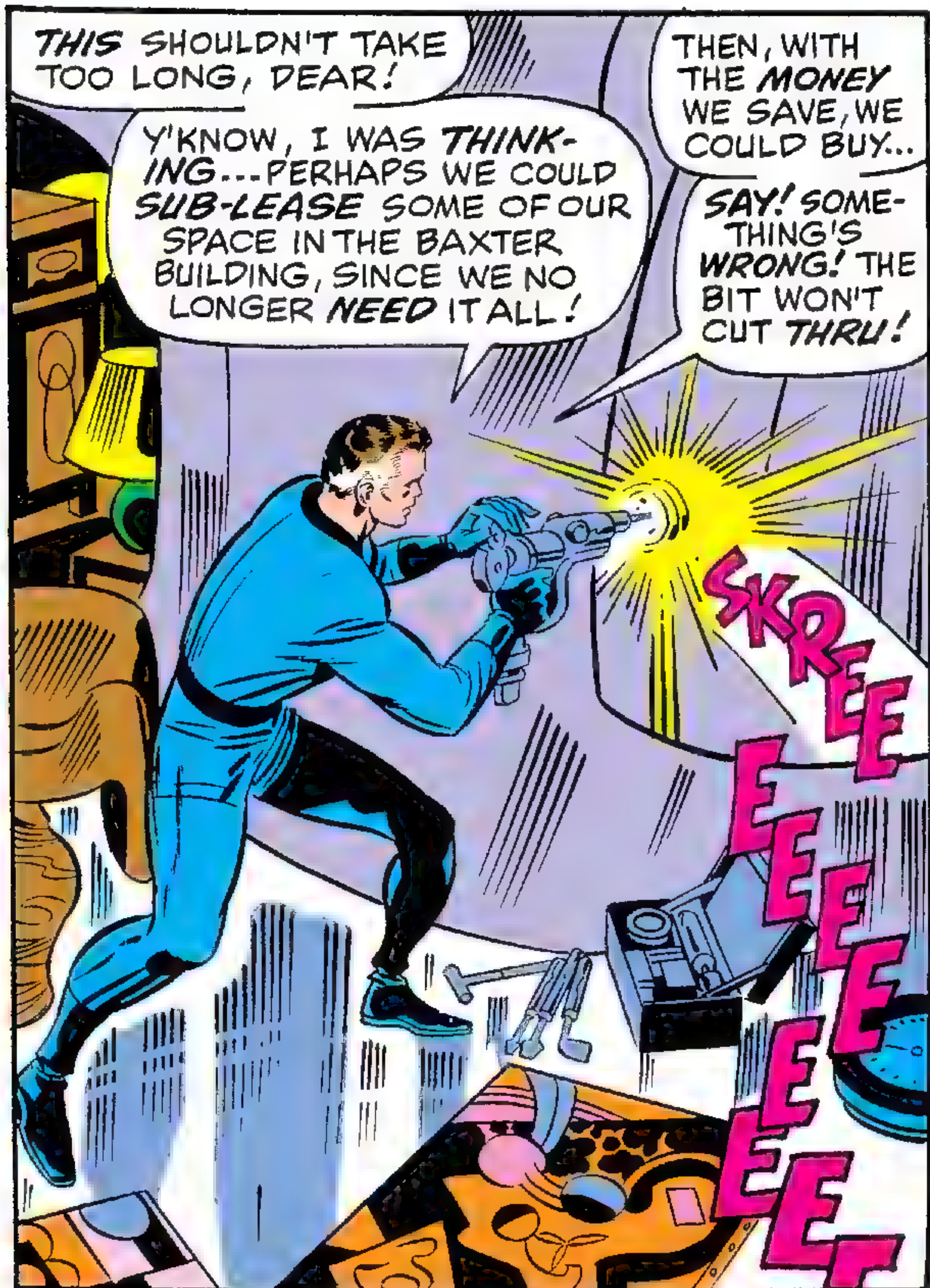
MEANWHILE, AT THE MYSTERIOUS HOUSE ITSELF, MR. AND MRS. RICHARDS AWAIT THE DELIVERY OF THEIR CRATES...

OUR LONG-WEARING, CHEMICALLY-PROTECTED COSTUMES ARE SIMPLY WONDERFUL FOR HOUSEWORK, DARLING!

THAT'S NOT QUITE WHAT I DESIGNED THEM FOR...

BUT, AS LONG AS THEY SERVE THE PURPOSE...

I'LL HANG SOME PICTURES AS SOON AS YOU DRILL SOME HOLES IN THE WALL!



THIS SHOULDN'T TAKE TOO LONG, DEAR!

Y'KNOW, I WAS THINKING...PERHAPS WE COULD SUB-LEASE SOME OF OUR SPACE IN THE BAXTER BUILDING, SINCE WE NO LONGER NEED IT ALL!

THEN, WITH THE MONEY WE SAVE, WE COULD BUY...

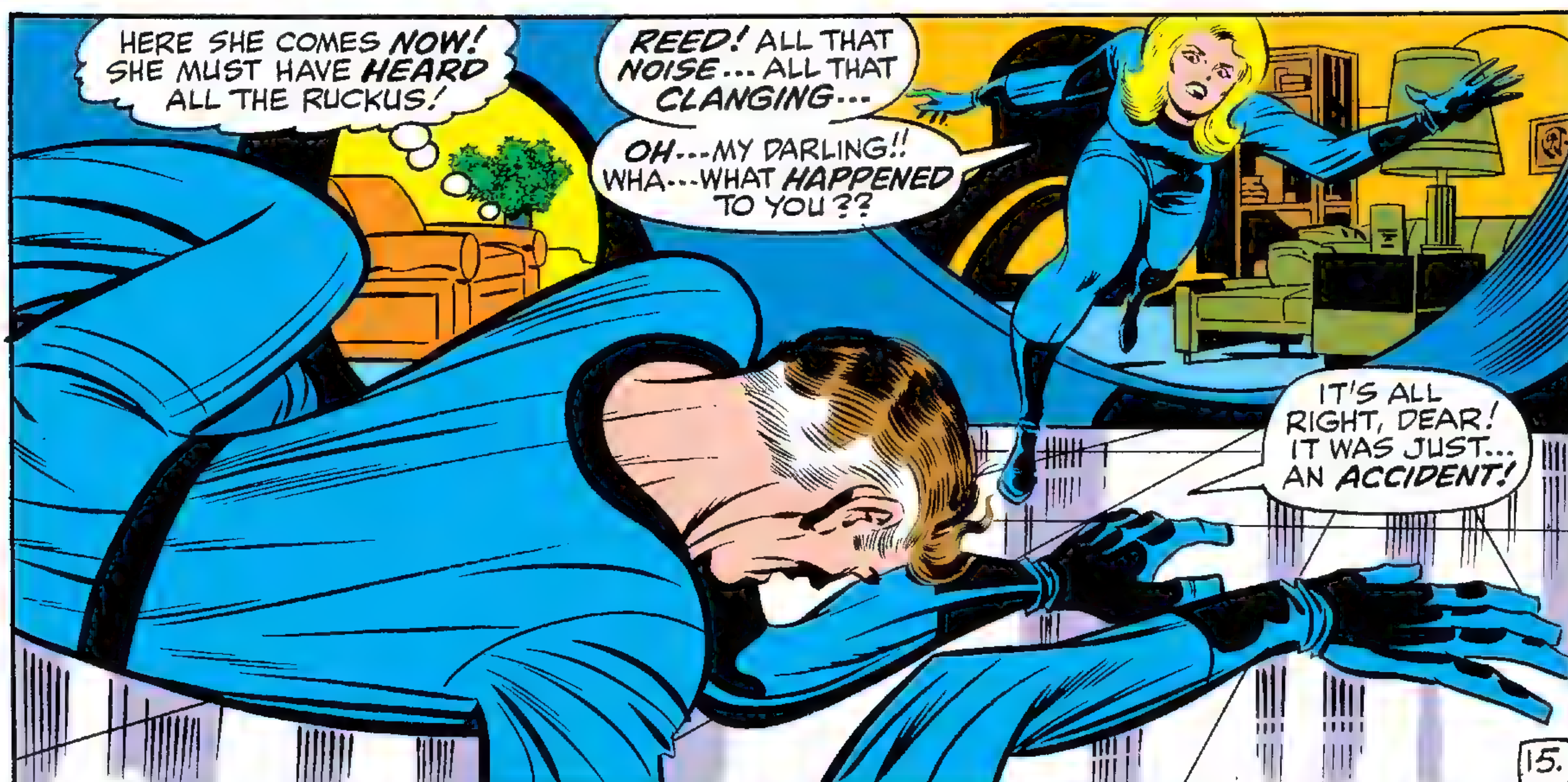
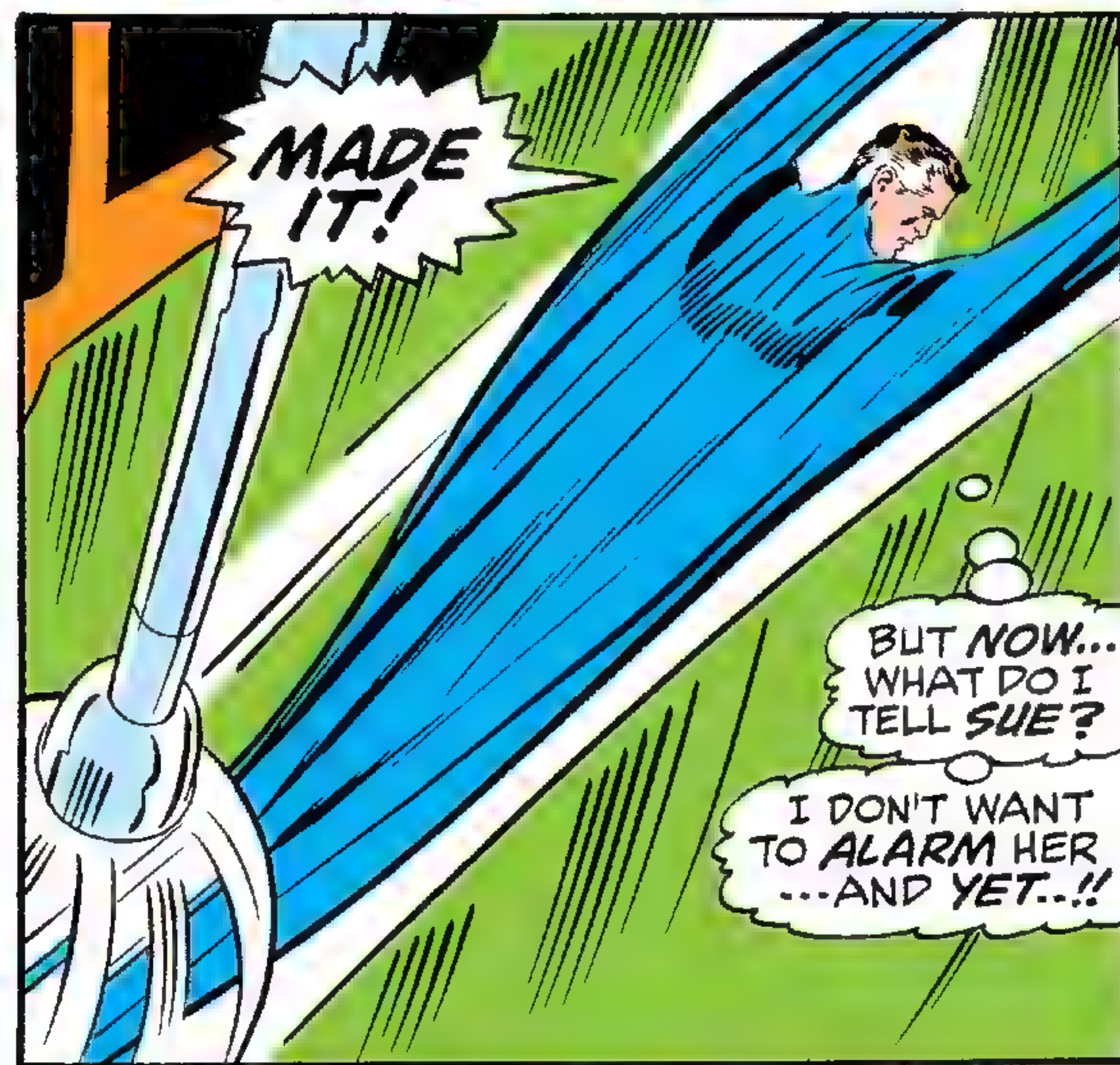
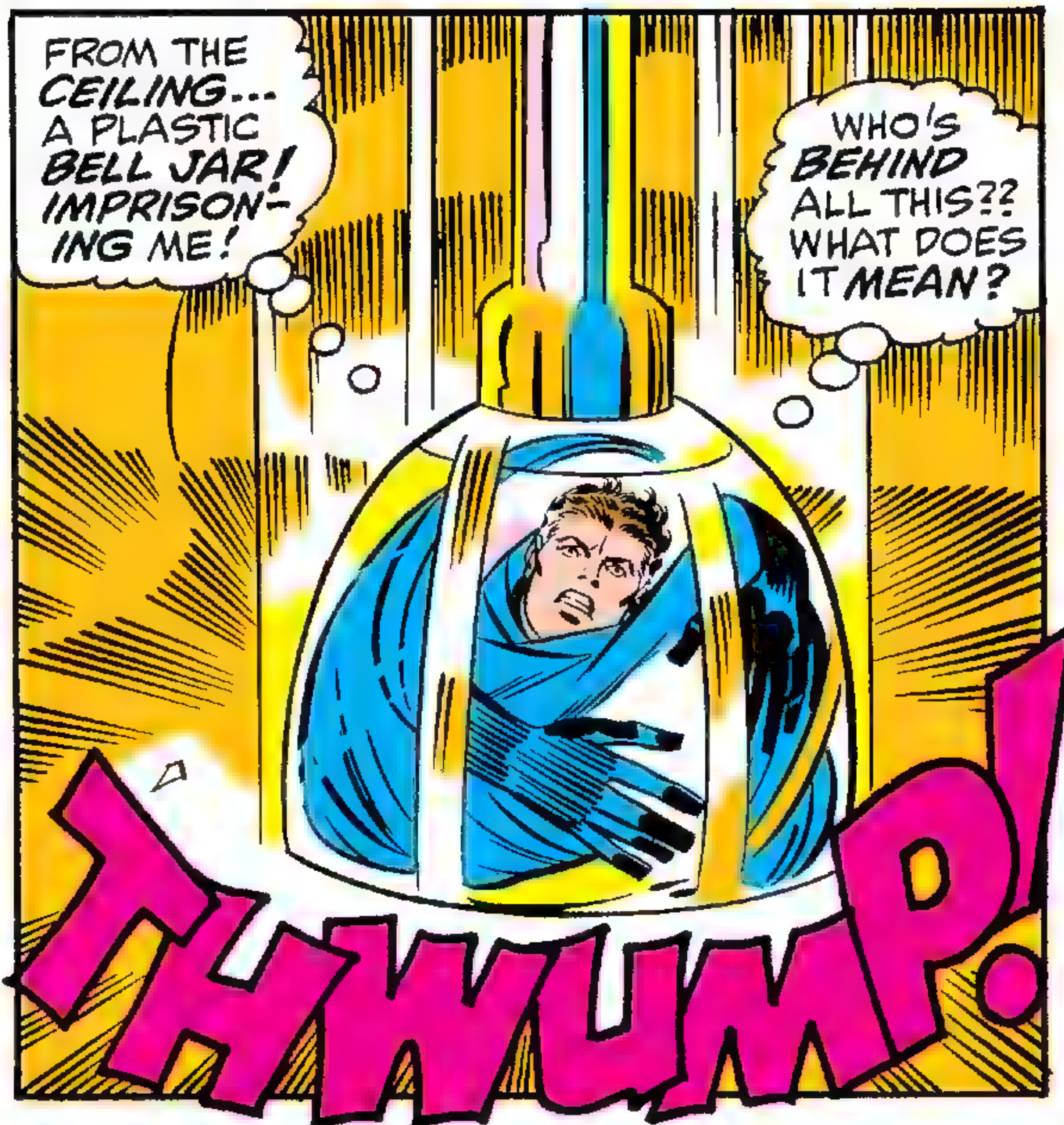
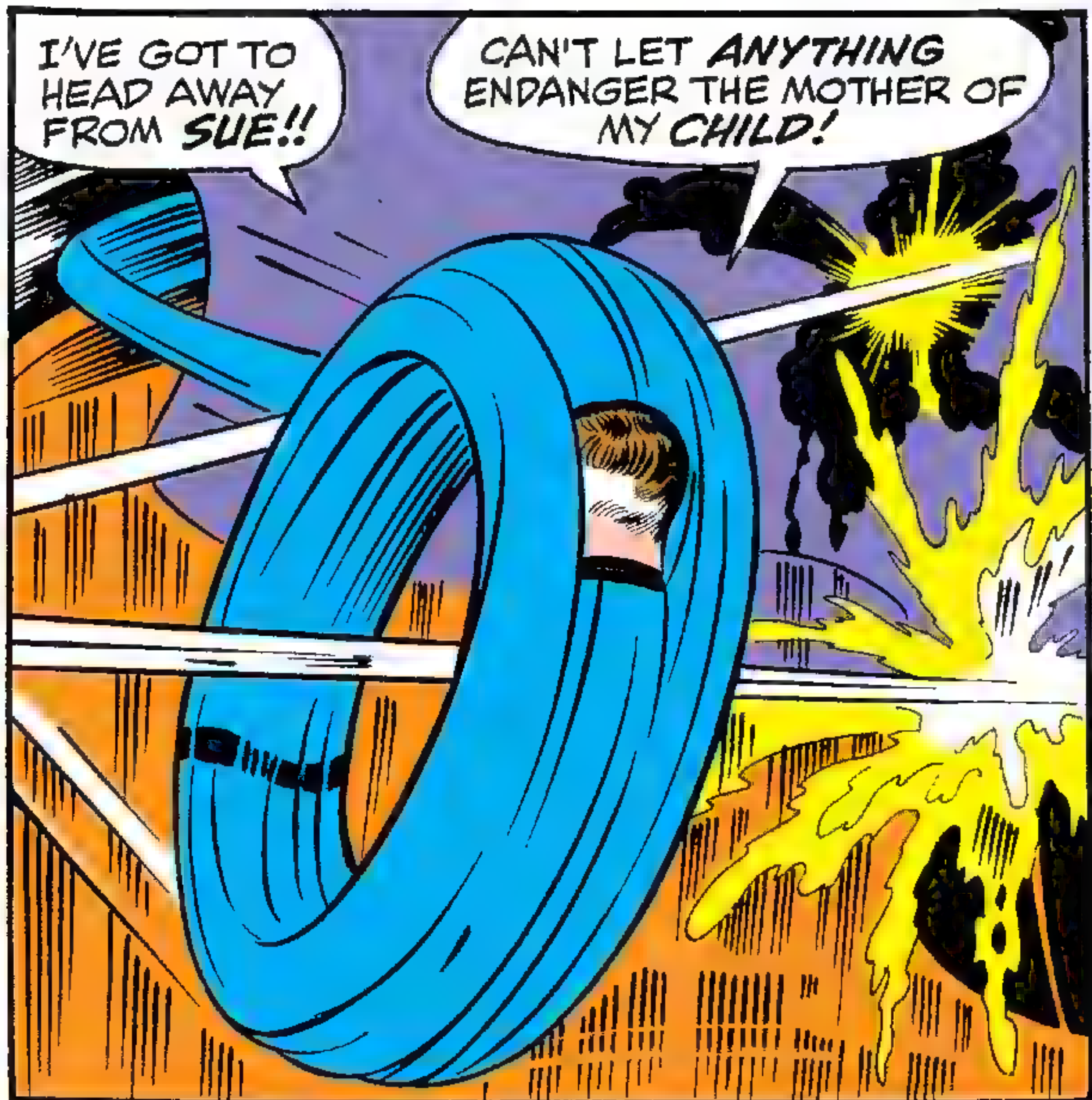
SAY! SOMETHING'S WRONG! THE BIT WON'T CUT THRU!

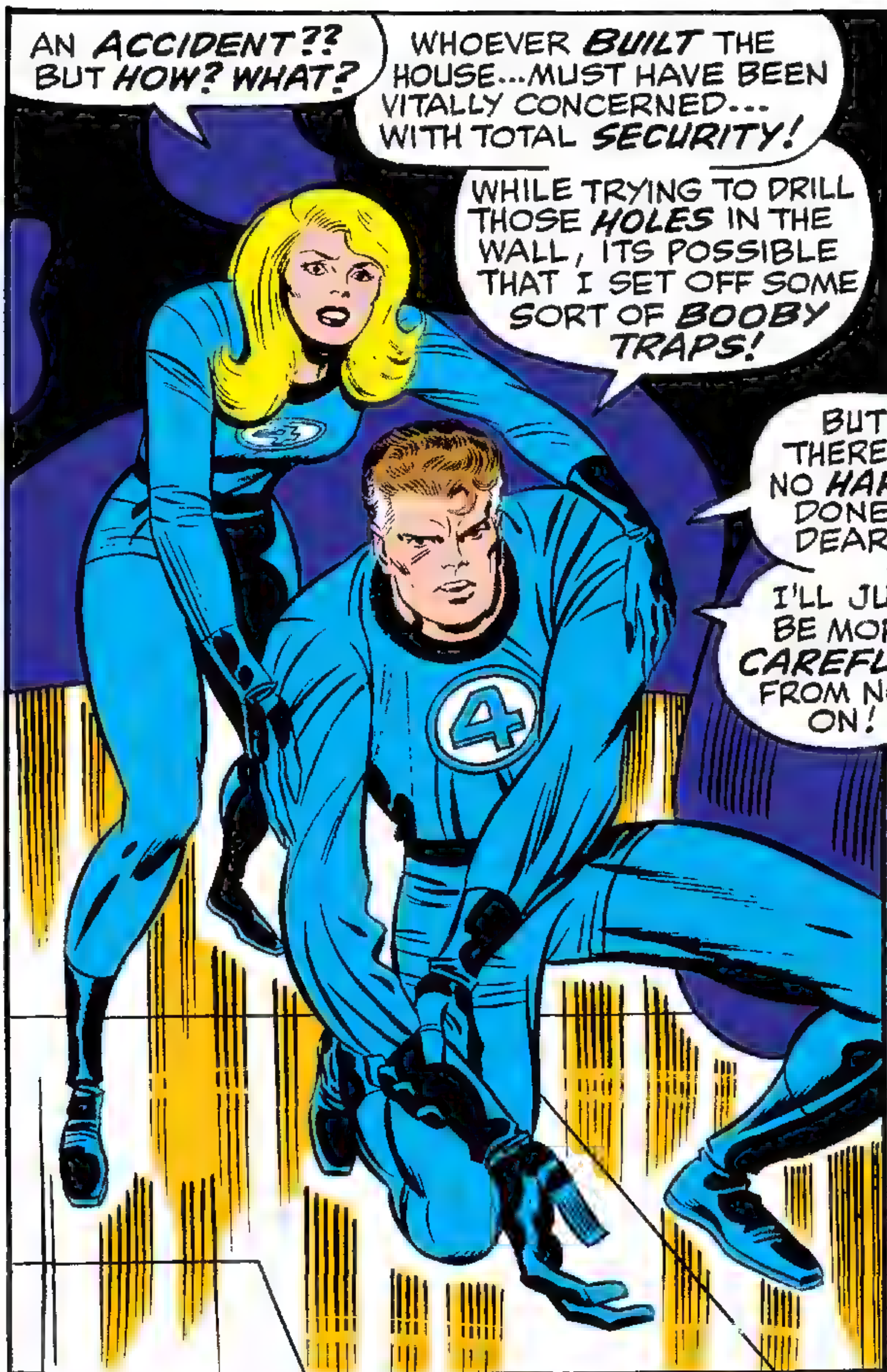
SKREEEEEEEE



THE WALL'S VIBRATING... AS THOUGH I TRIPPED AN ALARM!!

STUN BOLTS! SHOOTING OUT FROM EVERYWHERE!





AN ACCIDENT??
BUT HOW? WHAT?

WHOEVER **BUILT** THE
HOUSE...MUST HAVE BEEN
VITALLY CONCERNED...
WITH TOTAL **SECURITY!**

WHILE TRYING TO DRILL
THOSE **HOLES** IN THE
WALL, ITS POSSIBLE
THAT I SET OFF SOME
SORT OF **BOOBY**
TRAPS!

BUT
THERE'S
NO **HARM**
DONE,
DEAR!

I'LL JUST
BE MORE
CAREFUL
FROM NOW
ON!

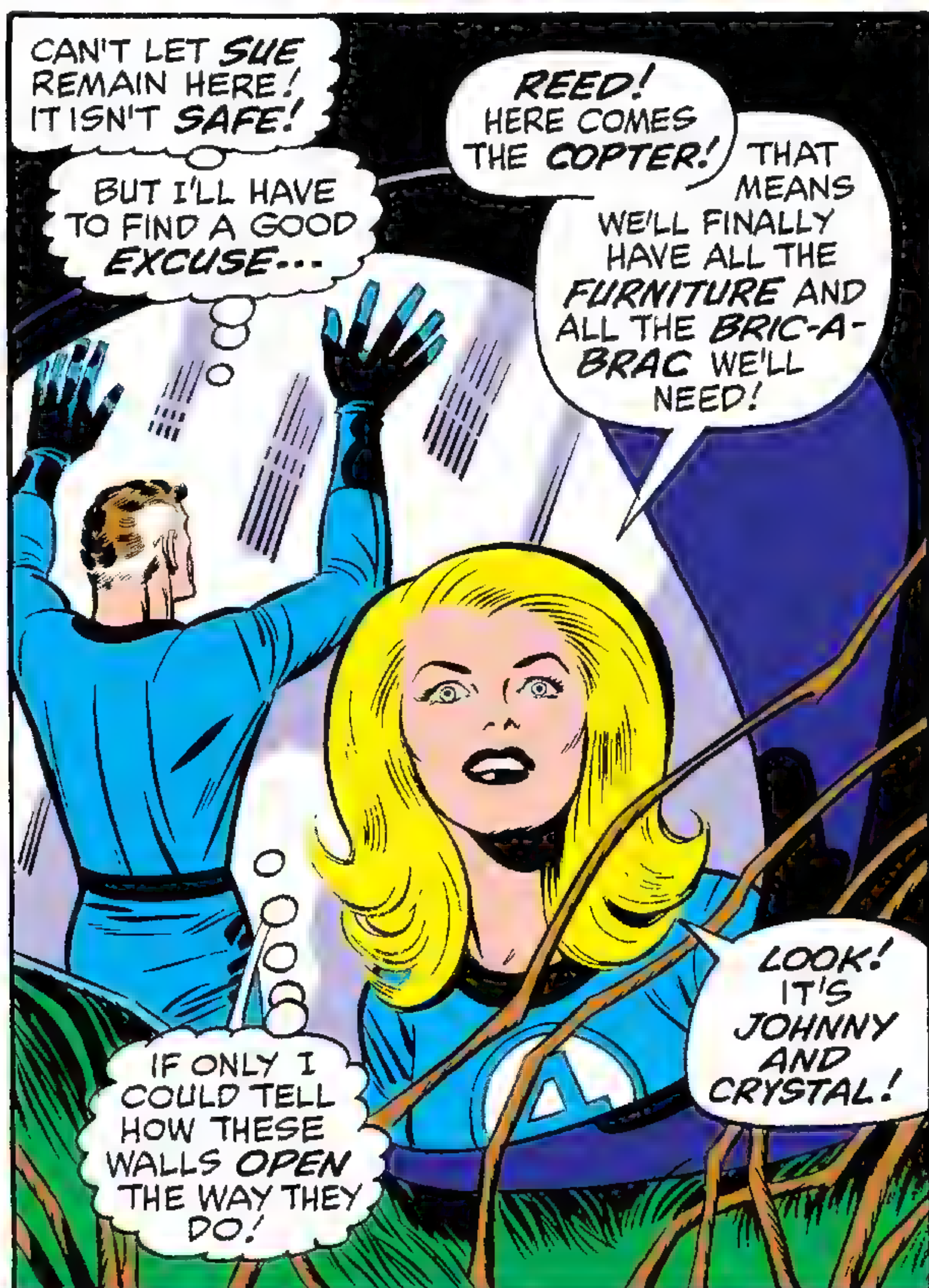


THE **BELL JAR** IS
GONE...THERE'S
NO **SIGN** OF IT
NOW!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN
AUTOMATICALLY
RETRACTED BACK
INTO THE **CEILING!**

I DON'T KNOW WHAT
WE'VE STUMBLED ONTO
HERE...BUT I WON'T
LEAVE UNTIL I GET
TO THE **BOTTOM**
OF IT!

THAT
CONSTANT
HUMMING...
IS GIVING ME
A **HEADACHE!**



CAN'T LET **SUE**
REMAIN HERE!
IT ISN'T **SAFE!**

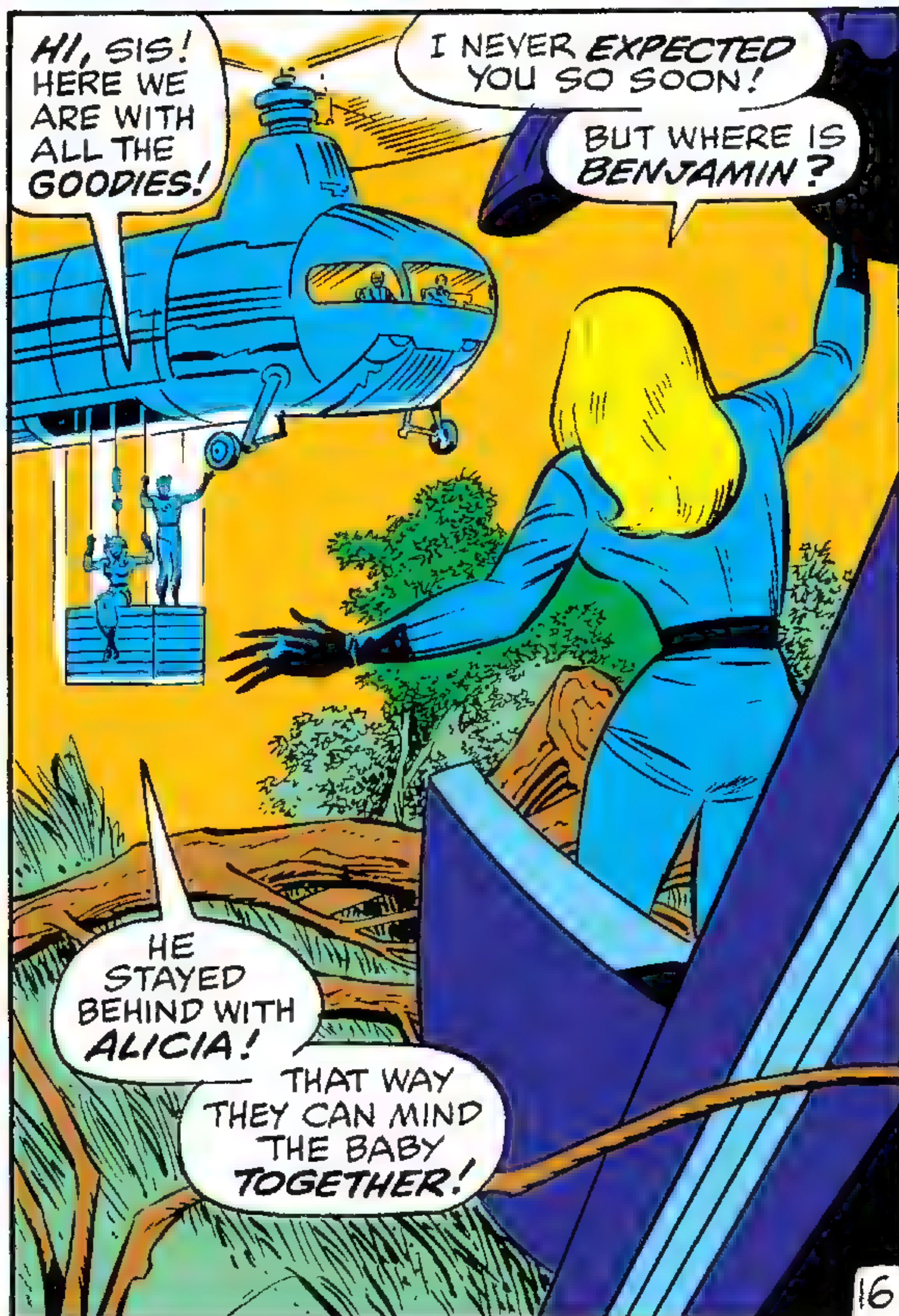
BUT I'LL HAVE
TO FIND A GOOD
EXCUSE...

REED!
HERE COMES
THE **COPTER!**

THAT
MEANS
WE'LL FINALLY
HAVE ALL THE
FURNITURE AND
ALL THE **BRIC-A-**
BRAC WE'LL
NEED!

LOOK!
IT'S
JOHNNY
AND
CRYSTAL!

IF ONLY I
COULD TELL
HOW THESE
WALLS **OPEN**
THE WAY THEY
DO!



HI, SIS!
HERE WE
ARE WITH
ALL THE
GOODIES!

I NEVER **EXPECTED**
YOU SO SOON!

BUT WHERE IS
BENJAMIN?

HE
STAYED
BEHIND WITH
ALICIA!

— THAT WAY
THEY CAN MIND
THE **BABY**
TOGETHER!

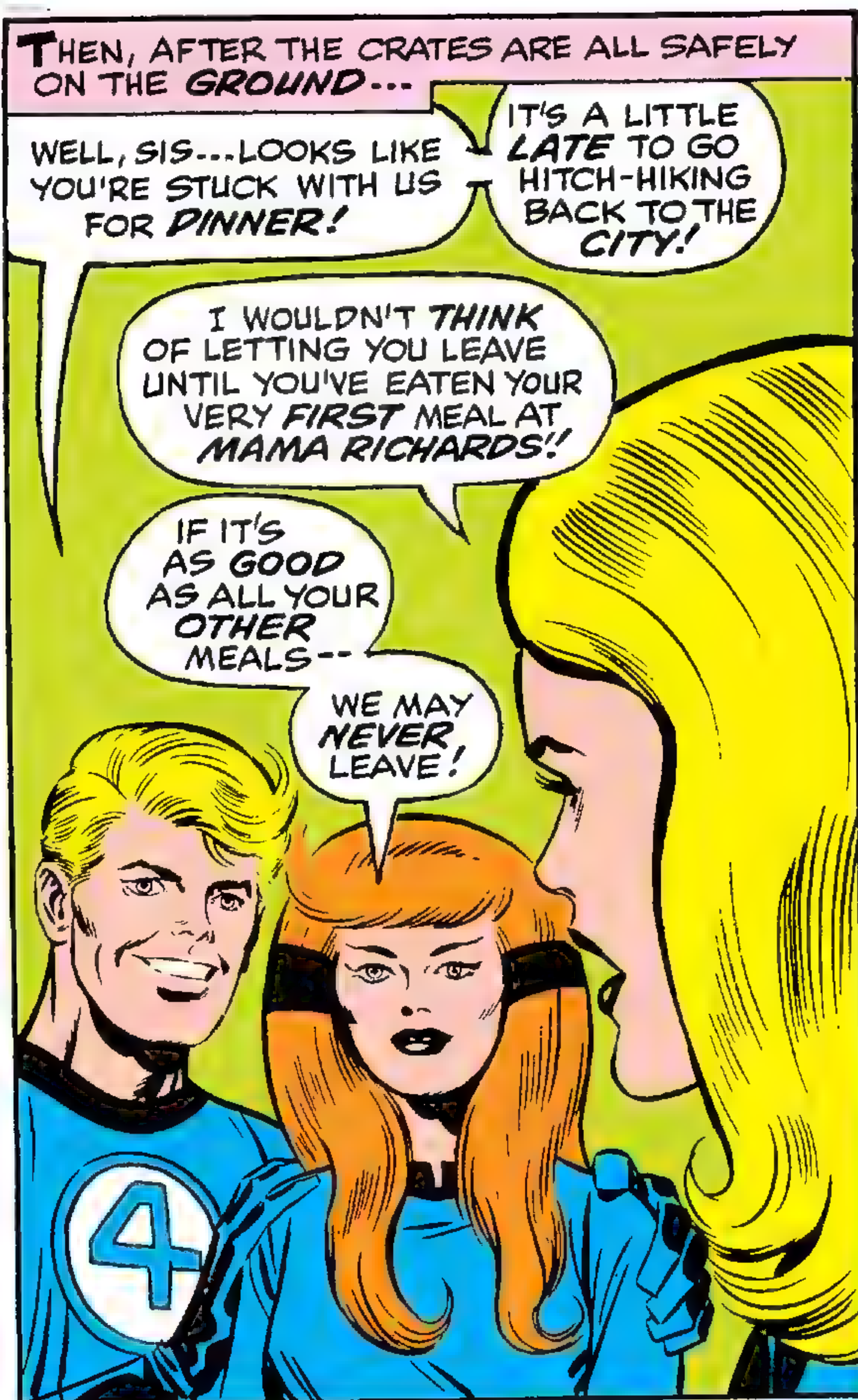


OKAY, MEN... LET THE CRATES DOWN EASY!

REED AND I CAN UNPACK THEM ONCE YOU'VE GONE!

CAREFUL! LOWER THE LARGER ONES FIRST! THAT'S IT!

I CAN'T WAIT TILL WE'RE ALL MOVED IN!



THEN, AFTER THE CRATES ARE ALL SAFELY ON THE GROUND...

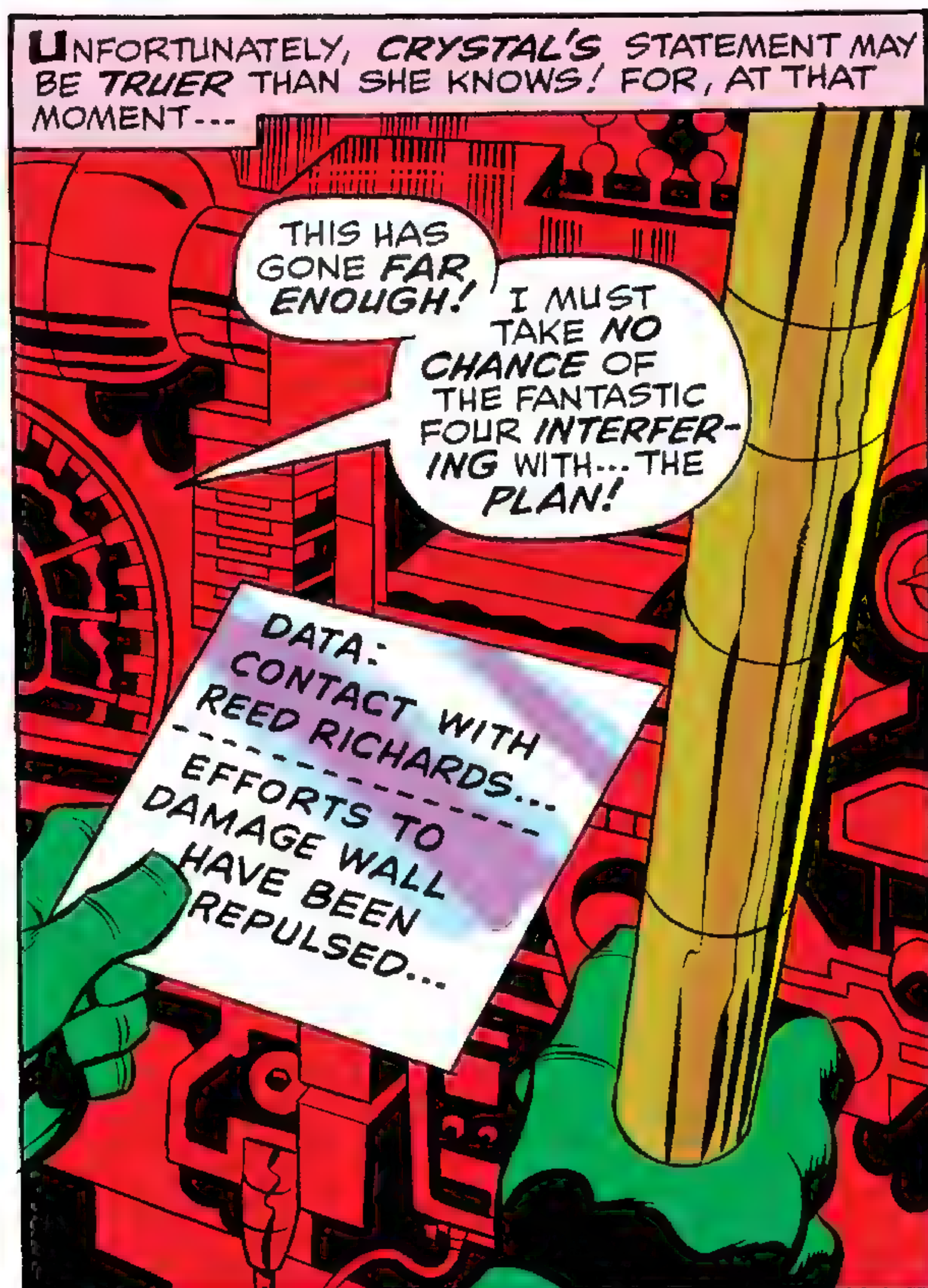
WELL, SIS... LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE STUCK WITH US FOR DINNER!

IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO GO HITCH-HIKING BACK TO THE CITY!

I WOULDN'T THINK OF LETTING YOU LEAVE UNTIL YOU'VE EATEN YOUR VERY FIRST MEAL AT MAMA RICHARDS'!

IF IT'S AS GOOD AS ALL YOUR OTHER MEALS--

WE MAY NEVER LEAVE!



UNFORTUNATELY, CRYSTAL'S STATEMENT MAY BE TRUER THAN SHE KNOWS! FOR, AT THAT MOMENT...

THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH!

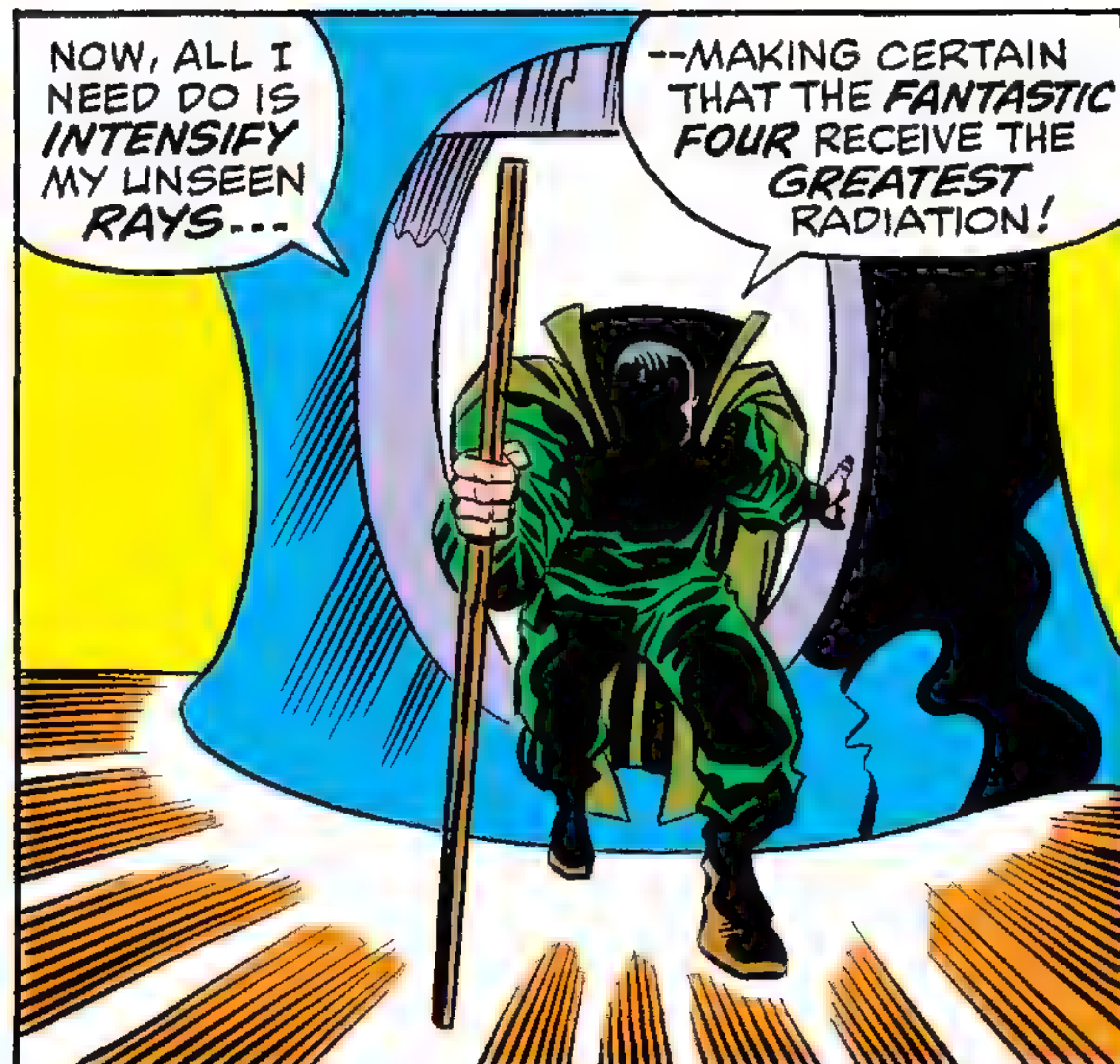
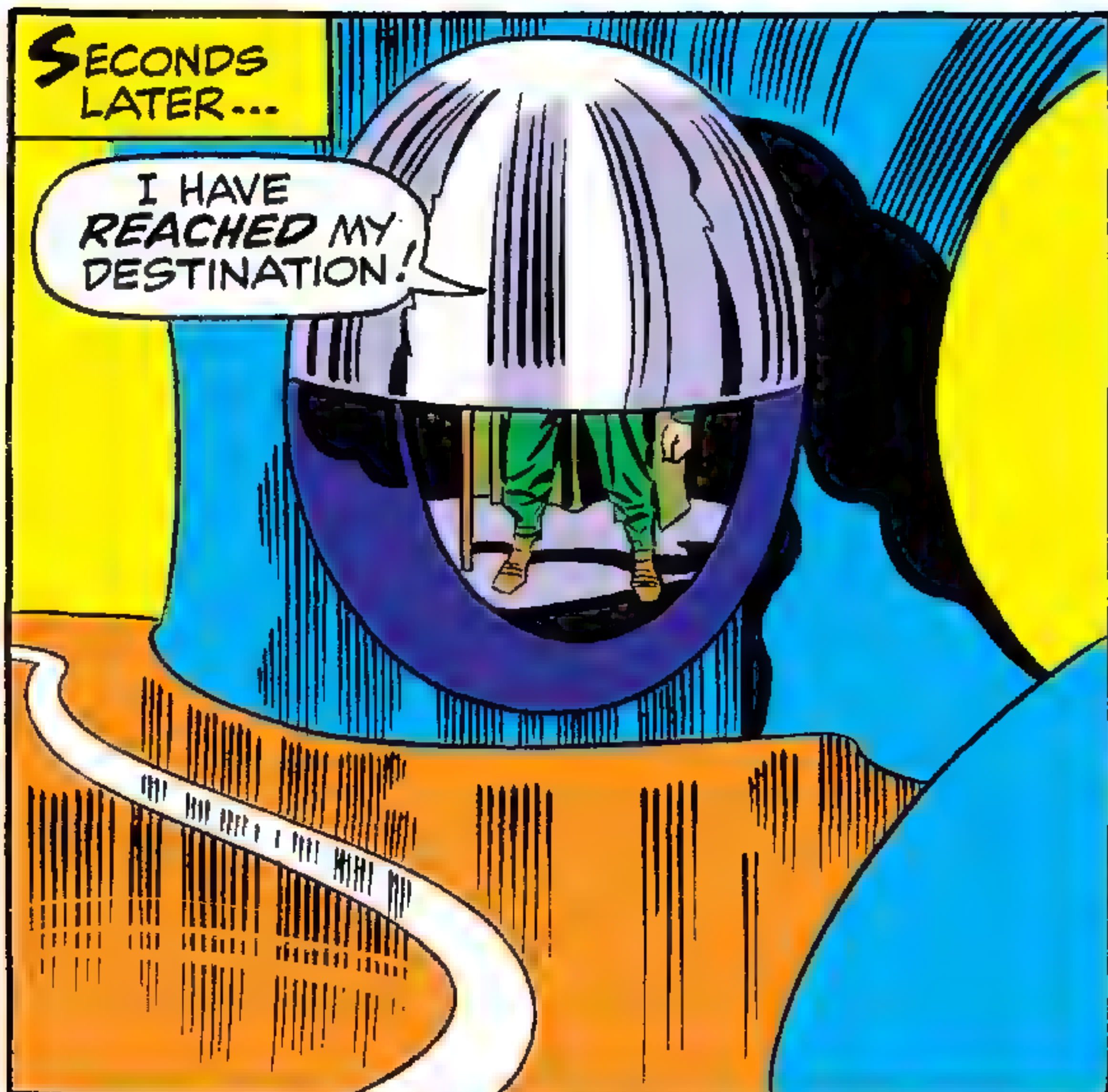
I MUST TAKE NO CHANCE OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR INTERFERING WITH... THE PLAN!

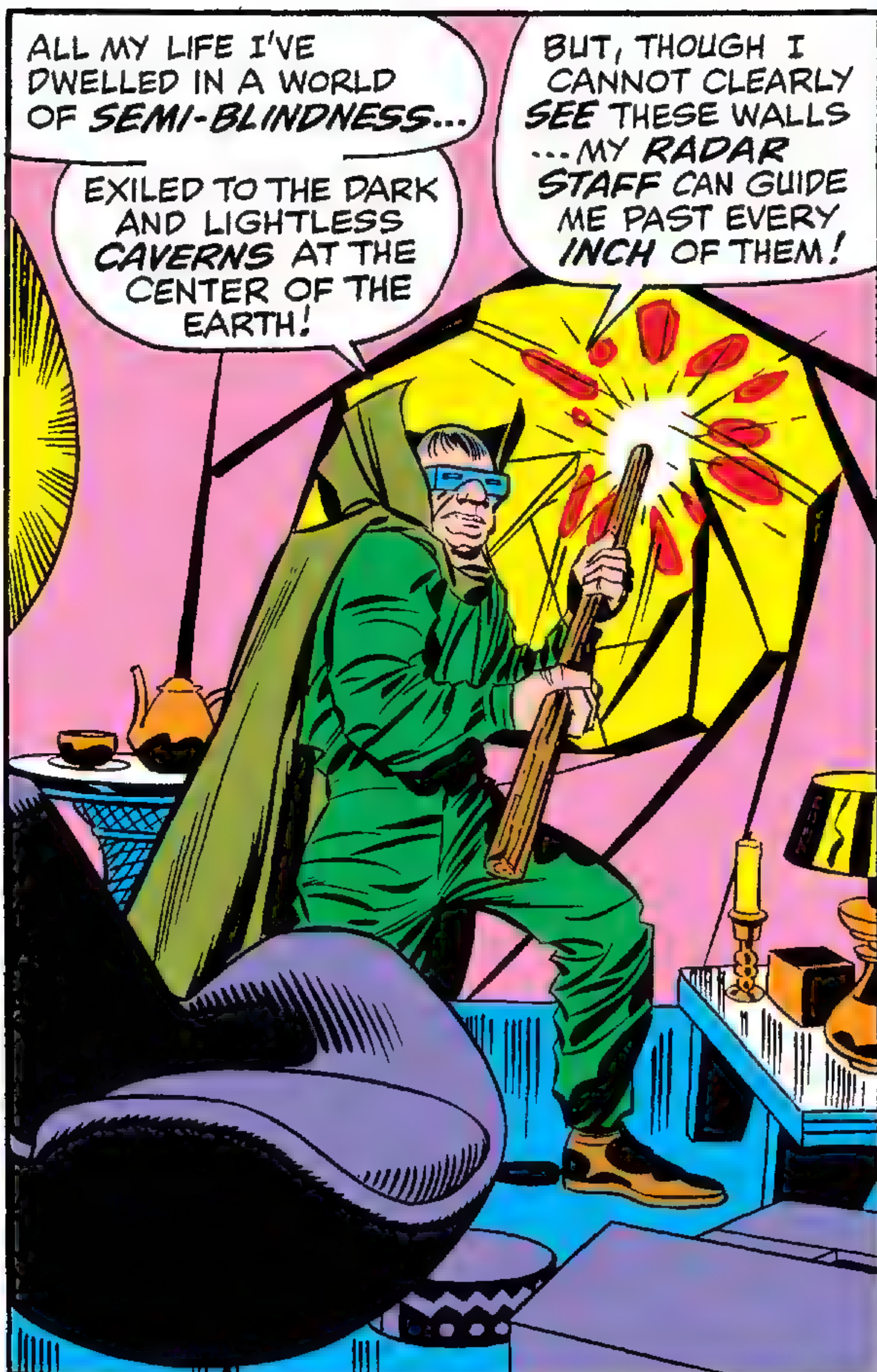
DATA: CONTACT WITH REED RICHARDS... EFFORTS TO DAMAGE WALL HAVE BEEN REPULSED...



THEREFORE, I SHALL STEP INTO THE PLASTIC CHUTE AND ALLOW MYSELF TO BE HURTTLED UPWARD...!

UPWARD ... TO THE SURFACE!

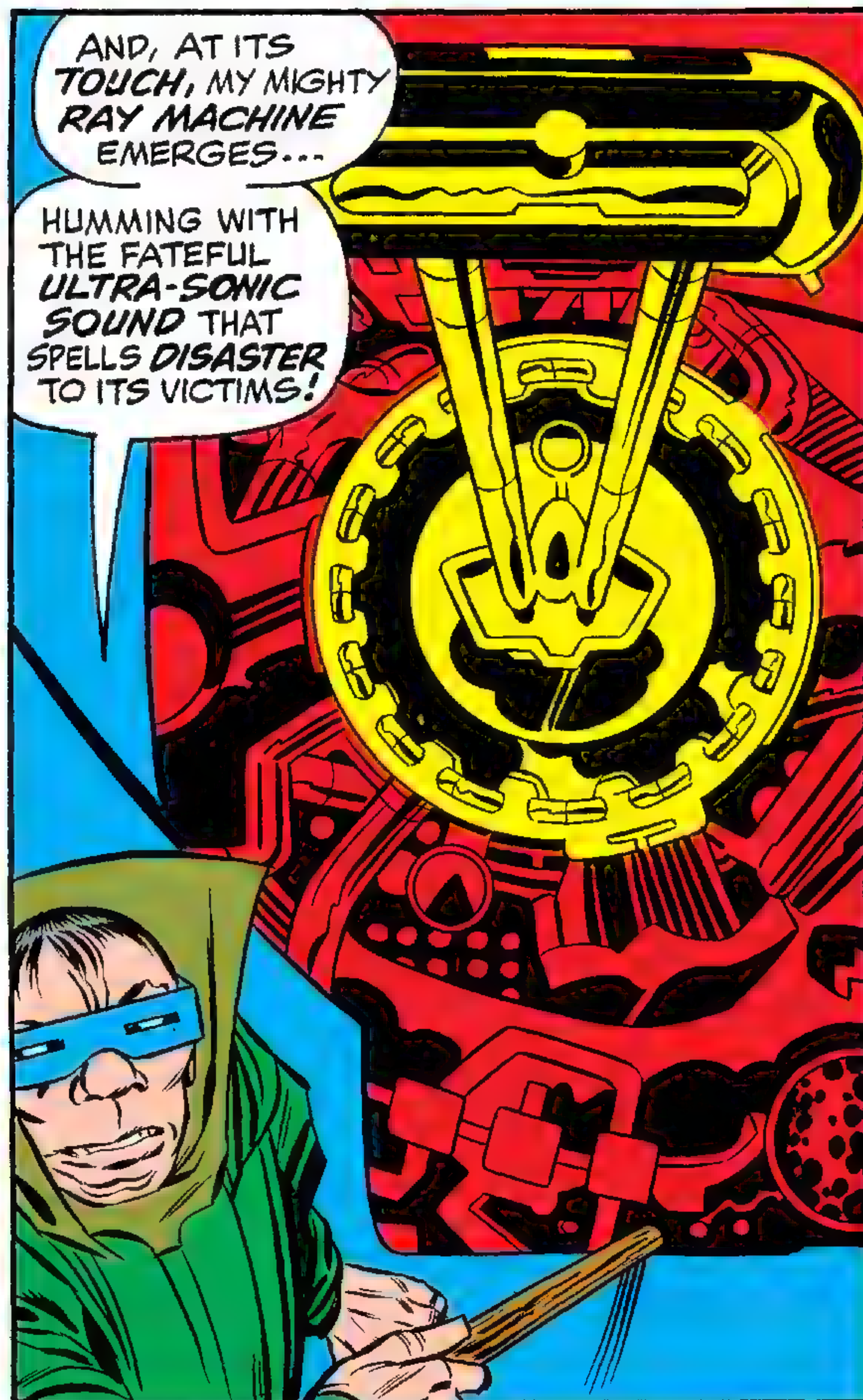




ALL MY LIFE I'VE DWELLED IN A WORLD OF **SEMI-BLINDNESS...**

EXILED TO THE DARK AND LIGHTLESS **CAVERNS** AT THE CENTER OF THE EARTH!

BUT, THOUGH I CANNOT CLEARLY SEE THESE WALLS ...MY **RADAR STAFF** CAN GUIDE ME PAST EVERY **INCH** OF THEM!



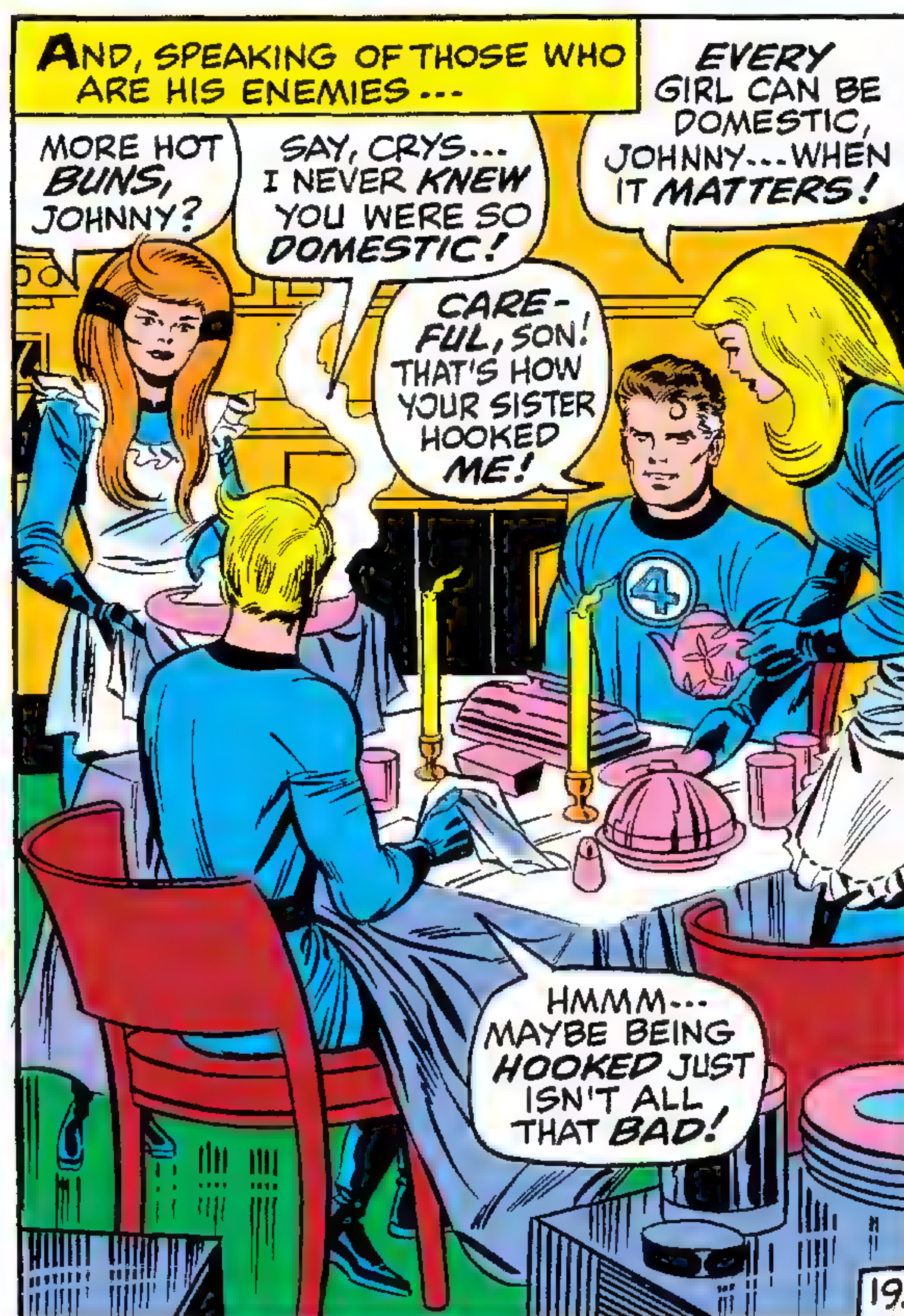
AND, AT ITS **TOUCH**, MY MIGHTY **RAY MACHINE** EMERGES...

HUMMING WITH THE FATEFUL **ULTRA-SONIC SOUND** THAT SPELLS **DISASTER** TO ITS VICTIMS!



AND NOW... I MAKE ITS EFFECT STRONGER... AND **STRONGER... AND STRONGER...**

...UNTIL THOSE WHO ARE MY **ENEMIES... ARE DESTROYED!**



AND, SPEAKING OF THOSE WHO ARE HIS ENEMIES ...

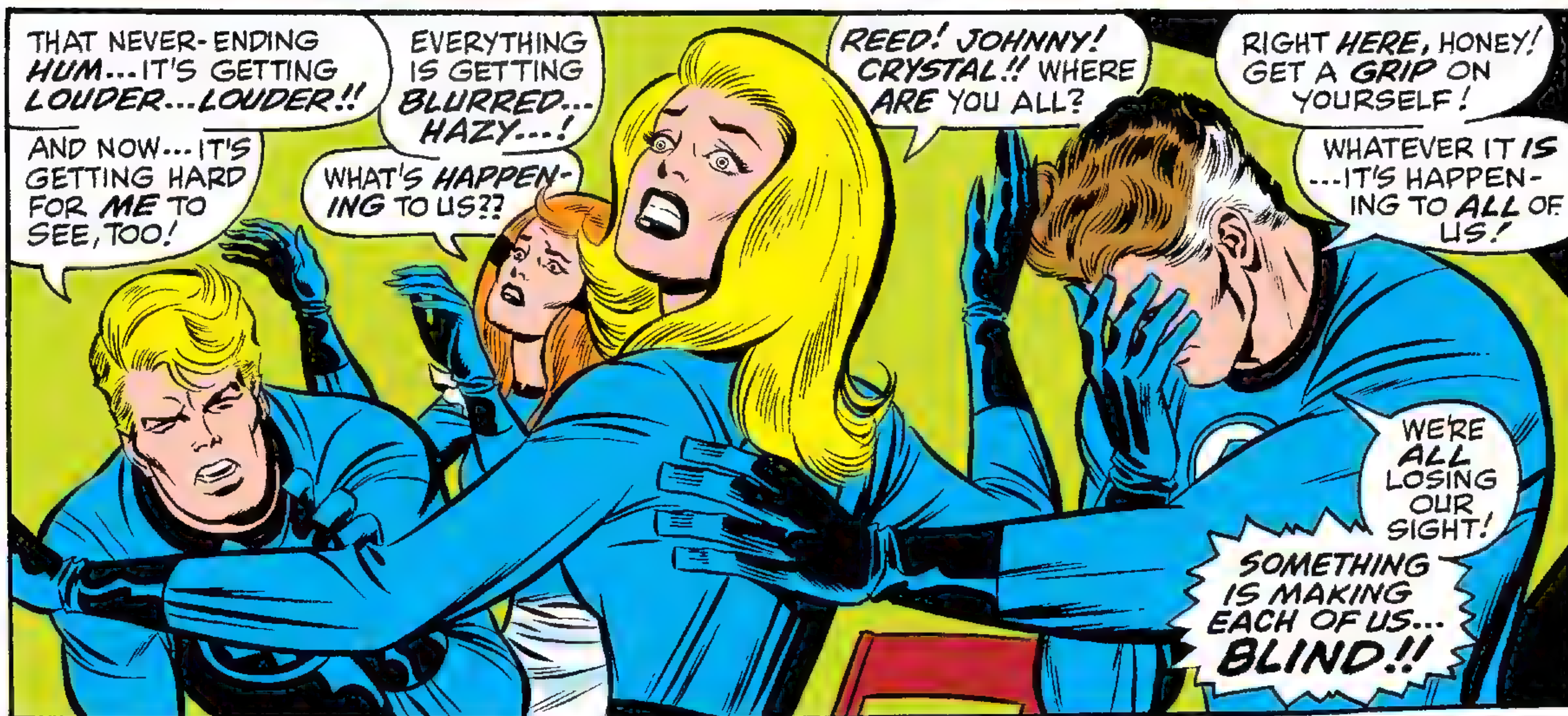
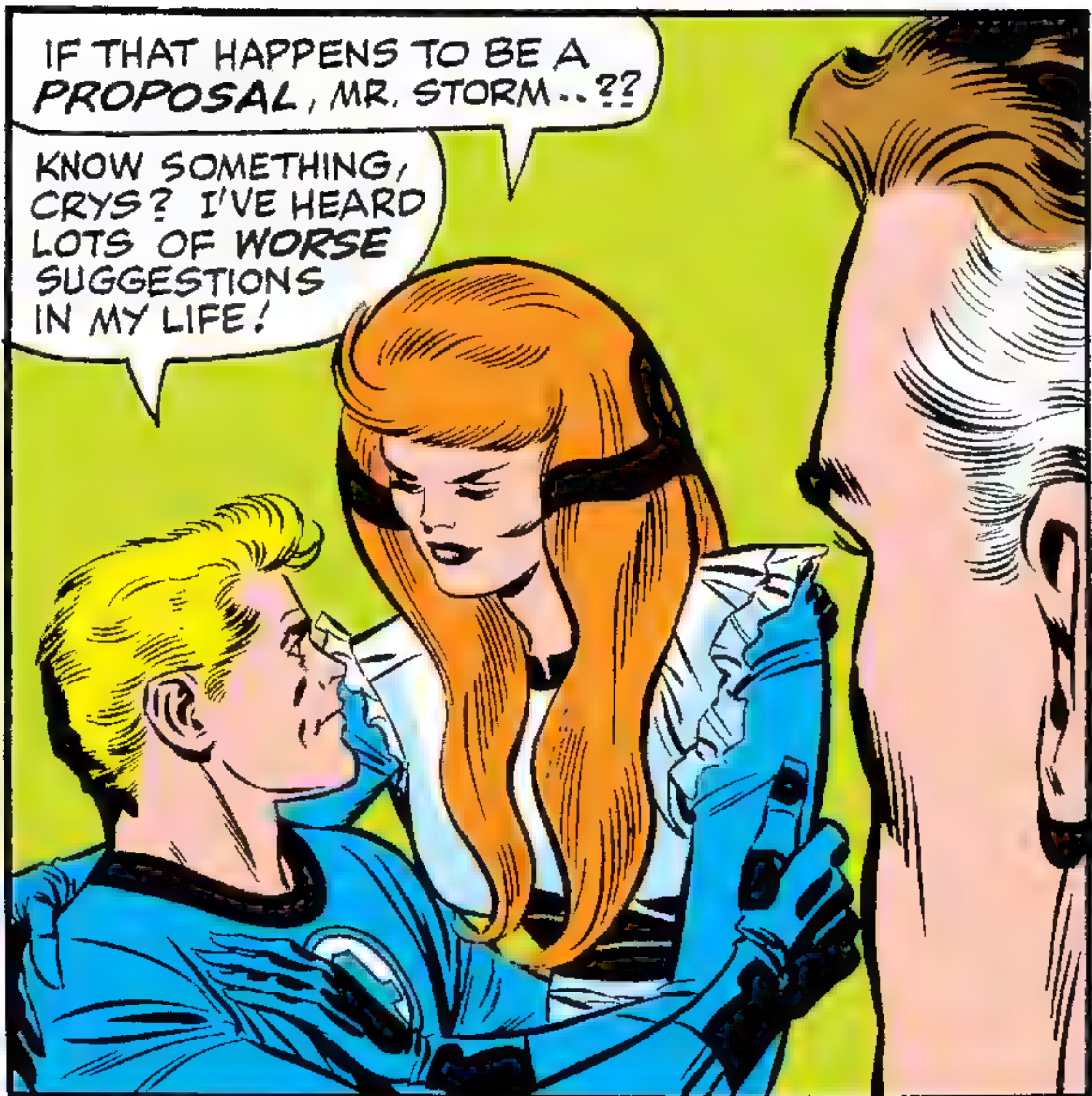
EVERY GIRL CAN BE DOMESTIC, JOHNNY... WHEN IT MATTERS!

MORE HOT **BUNS**, JOHNNY?

SAY, CRYSTAL... I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE SO **DOMESTIC!**

CAREFUL, SON! THAT'S HOW YOUR SISTER HOOKED ME!

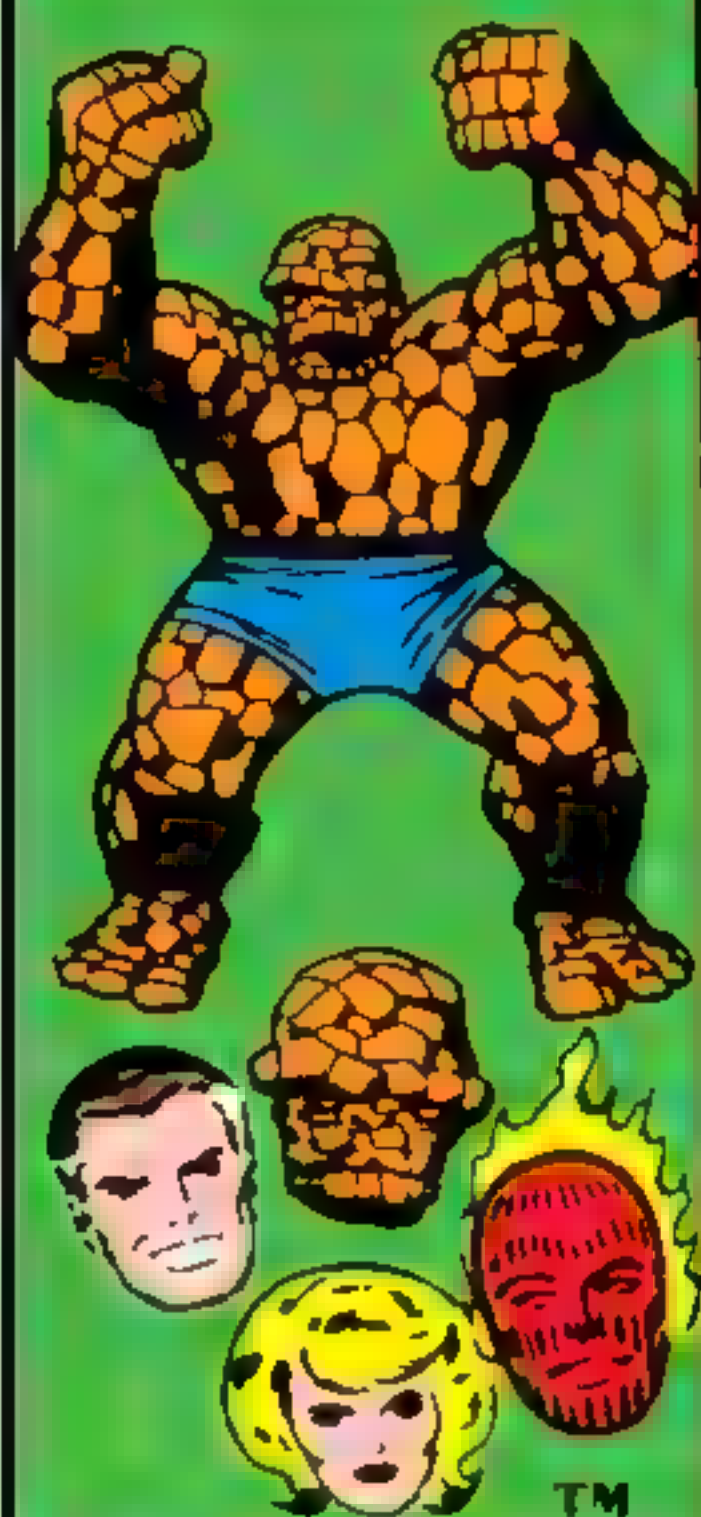
HMMM... MAYBE BEING **HOOKED** JUST ISN'T ALL THAT **BAD!**



FANTASTIC
FOUR

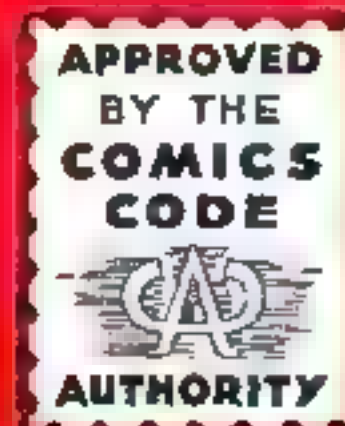
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MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!



Fantastic Four

THE MADNESS OF THE
MOLE MAN!



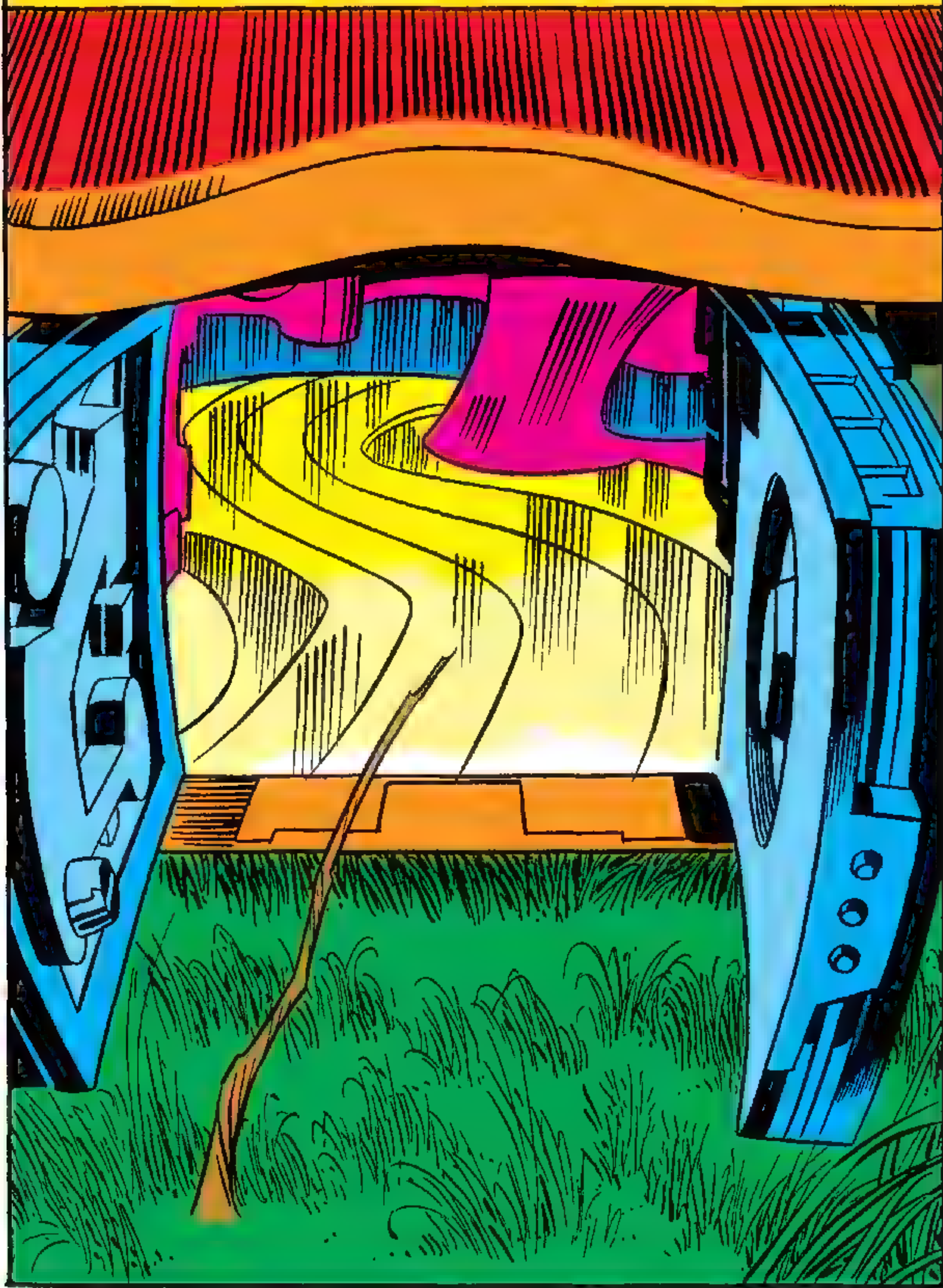
THE FABULOUS **FANTASTIC FOUR**, IN A WORLD OF BLINDNESS, MUST FACE...

THE MADNESS OF THE MOLE MAN!

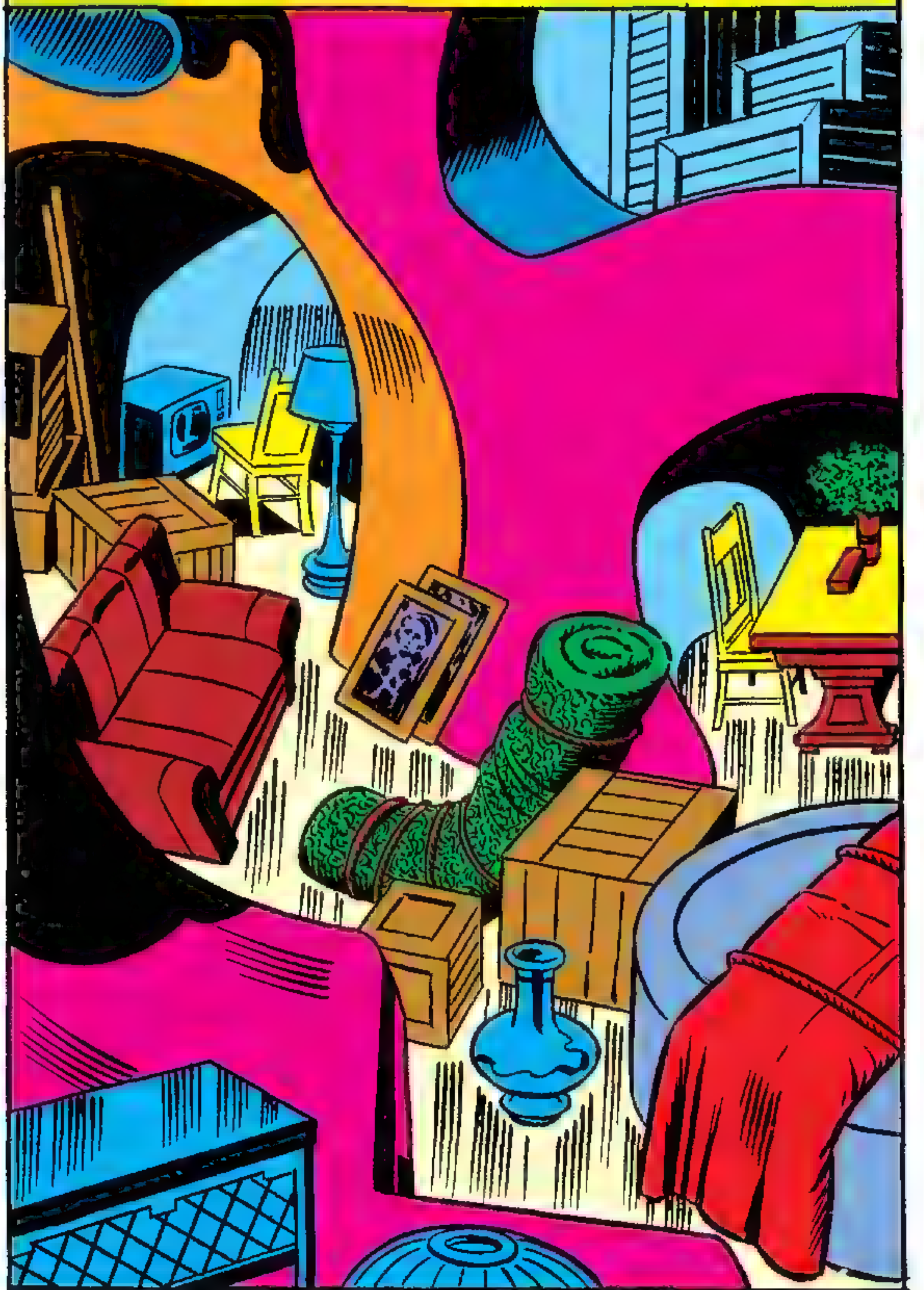
AT THE EDGE OF A SHADY **WOODLAND** IT STANDS... EMITTING STRANGE AND SINISTER **RAYS** LIKE SOME MONSTROUS, GLOWING TOAD! THIS IS THE MYSTERIOUS DWELLING WHICH **REED RICHARDS** HAS CHOSEN FOR HIS **HOME**... AND THIS IS THE START OF A **BATTLE** LIKE NONE WHICH YOU HAVE EVER SEEN BEFORE...!!

STORY and
ILLUSTRATION
BY
STAN (THE MAN) LEE
AND
JACK (KING) KIRBY
EMBELLISHMENT:
JOLTIN' JOE SINNOTT
LETTERING:
SMILIN' SAMMY
ROSEN

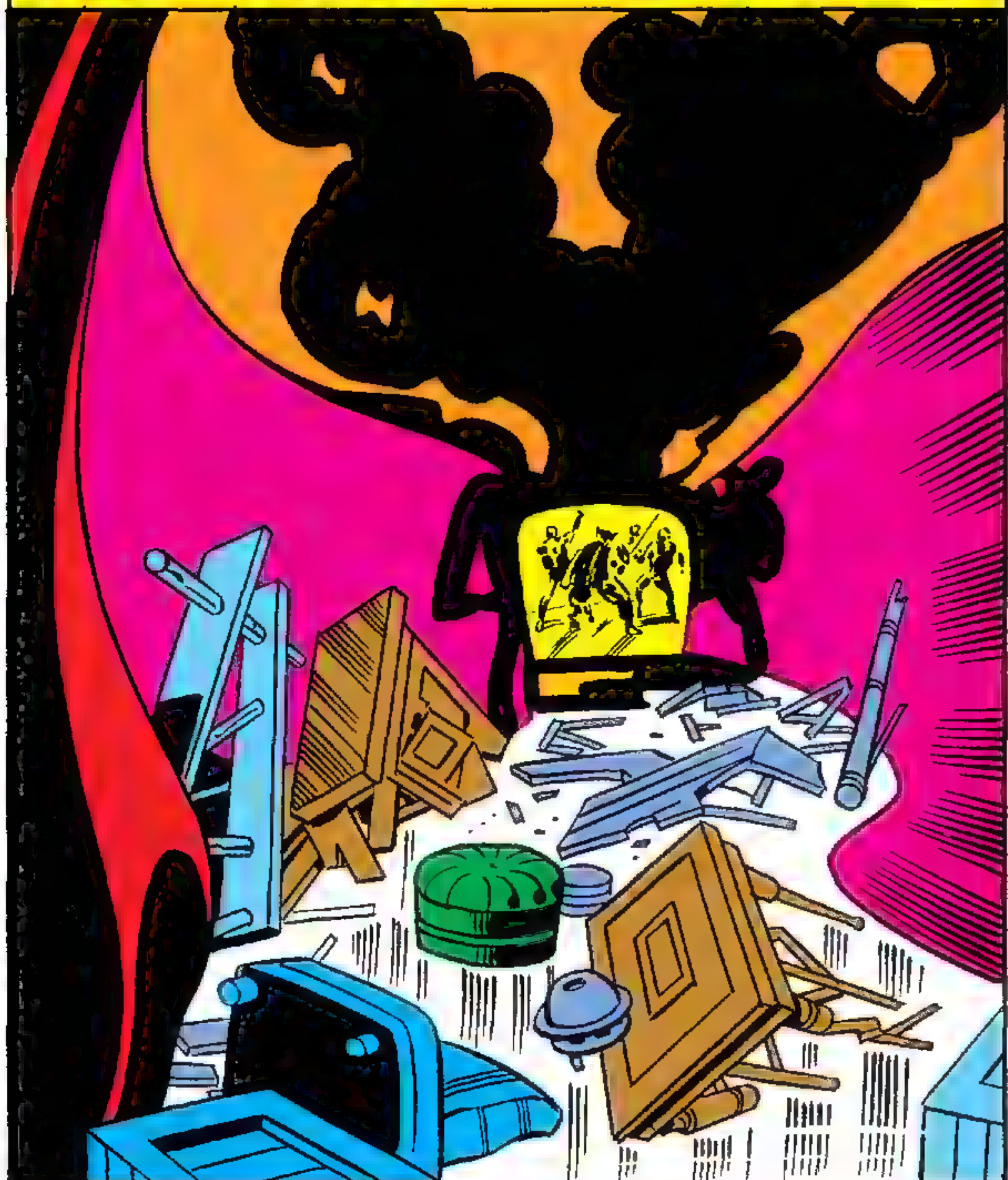
AS WE DRAW CLOSER... **CLOSER**... WE ARE ABLE TO PEEK DIMLY **INSIDE**... SEEING A MODERN, SPACIOUS, BUT SOMEHOW **ALIEN** INTERIOR WINDING BEFORE US...



AT FIRST GLANCE, ALL SEEMS **PEACEFUL** ENOUGH! THE NEWLY-ARRIVED **FURNITURE**, SOME STILL PACKED IN CRATES, STANDS WAITING TO BE CAREFULLY ARRANGED...



BUT, AS WE SLOWLY VENTURE **FURTHER**, THRU THE TWISTING, WINDING CORRIDORS, WE SEE DRAMATIC **SHADOWS** GYRATING ON THE WALLS ... AND REALIZE WE ARE WITNESSING THE FIRST SIGNS OF... A DESPERATE **BATTLE**!



AND, THOSE OF US WHO THRILLED TO THE CLOSING PANELS OF OUR **PREVIOUS** ISSUE WILL REMEMBER THAT THE **TRUE** OWNER OF THIS UNCANNY BUILDING HAS REVEALED HIMSELF TO BE... THE **MURDEROUS MOLE MAN**...!



THOUGH I ALLOWED YOU TO **ENTER** THIS HOUSE... OF WHICH **I** AM THE MASTER...

...YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE IT... ALIVE!

MY HOUSE IS *NOT* A HOUSE...ANY MORE THAN MY HUMBLE *STICK* IS JUST A *STICK*!

THIS *BUILDING*...WHICH YOU HAVE BLUNDERED INTO...IS ACTUALLY A COMPLEX *MACHINE*...WHOSE *PURPOSE* IT IS TO FURNISH MY LINK TO YOUR *SURFACE* WORLD!

AND SO, I CAN *TOY* WITH YOU AT MY LEISURE... FOR I AM AT *HOME* IN A WORLD OF DISMAL *DARKNESS*!

THE BLINDING *RAYS* WHICH IT NOW EMITS HAVE ROBBED YOU OF YOUR *SIGHT*...

AND SOON... ALL OF *MANKIND* SHALL BE *SIGHTLESS*...UNABLE TO STOP THE *MOLE MAN* FROM CONQUERING THE ENTIRE *PLANET*!

HE *MEANS* IT! HE INTENDS TO *RULE* THE SURFACE WORLD...BY MAKING EVERYONE *BLIND*!



CLEVER OF YOU, RICHARDS...
STRIKING IN THE DIRECTION OF
MY VOICE!

BUT, YOU
ARE OUT
OF YOUR
ELEMENT...

WHILE I
BATTLE IN
THE MANNER
I FIGHT
BEST!



HAVING LIVED SO
LONG IN MY SHADOWY
SUBTERRANEAN
KINGDOM, I NO
LONGER HAVE NEED
OF SIGHT!

I CAN
SENSE
YOUR EVERY
MOVEMENT... SUCH
AS THE THING'S
CLUMSY ATTACK...

WHICH I CAN
EASILY PARRY
...BY TRIPPING
HIM WITH MY
INFALLIBLE
STAFF!

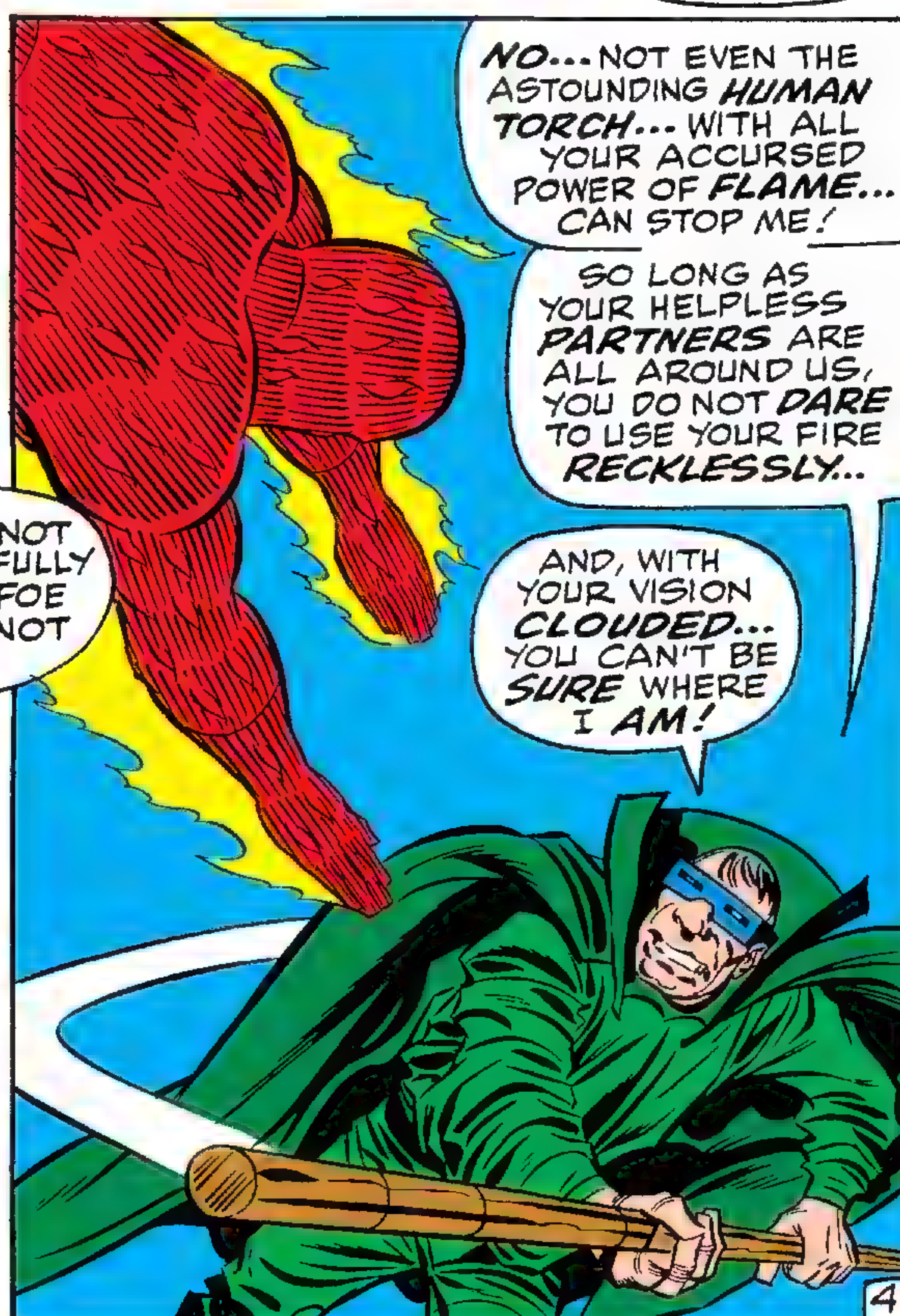
IF ONLY... I
COULD GIT ONE
LOOK AT YA...
SEE WHERE YA
ARE....!



TOO MANY TIMES
YOU HAVE
DEFEATED ME
IN THE PAST...

BUT THIS
TIME, MY PLAN IS
FLAWLESS!

YOU CANNOT
SUCCESSFULLY
FIGHT A FOE
YOU CANNOT
SEE!



NO... NOT EVEN THE
ASTOUNDING HUMAN
TORCH... WITH ALL
YOUR ACCURSED
POWER OF FLAME...
CAN STOP ME!

SO LONG AS
YOUR HELPLESS
PARTNERS ARE
ALL AROUND US,
YOU DO NOT DARE
TO USE YOUR FIRE
RECKLESSLY...

AND, WITH
YOUR VISION
CLOUDED...
YOU CAN'T BE
SURE WHERE
I AM!



BUT, EVEN AS THE **MOLE MAN** CHORTLES IN SAVAGE GLEE...
ANOTHER FATEFUL INCIDENT IS TRANSPIRING, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY... AS FOUR ALIEN **SPACECRAFT** STEALTHILY APPROACH THE DARK SIDE OF THE DISTANT **MOON**...

BEHOLD...
A PRIMITIVE EARTH-
TYPE **ROCKET**
HOVERS NEARBY!

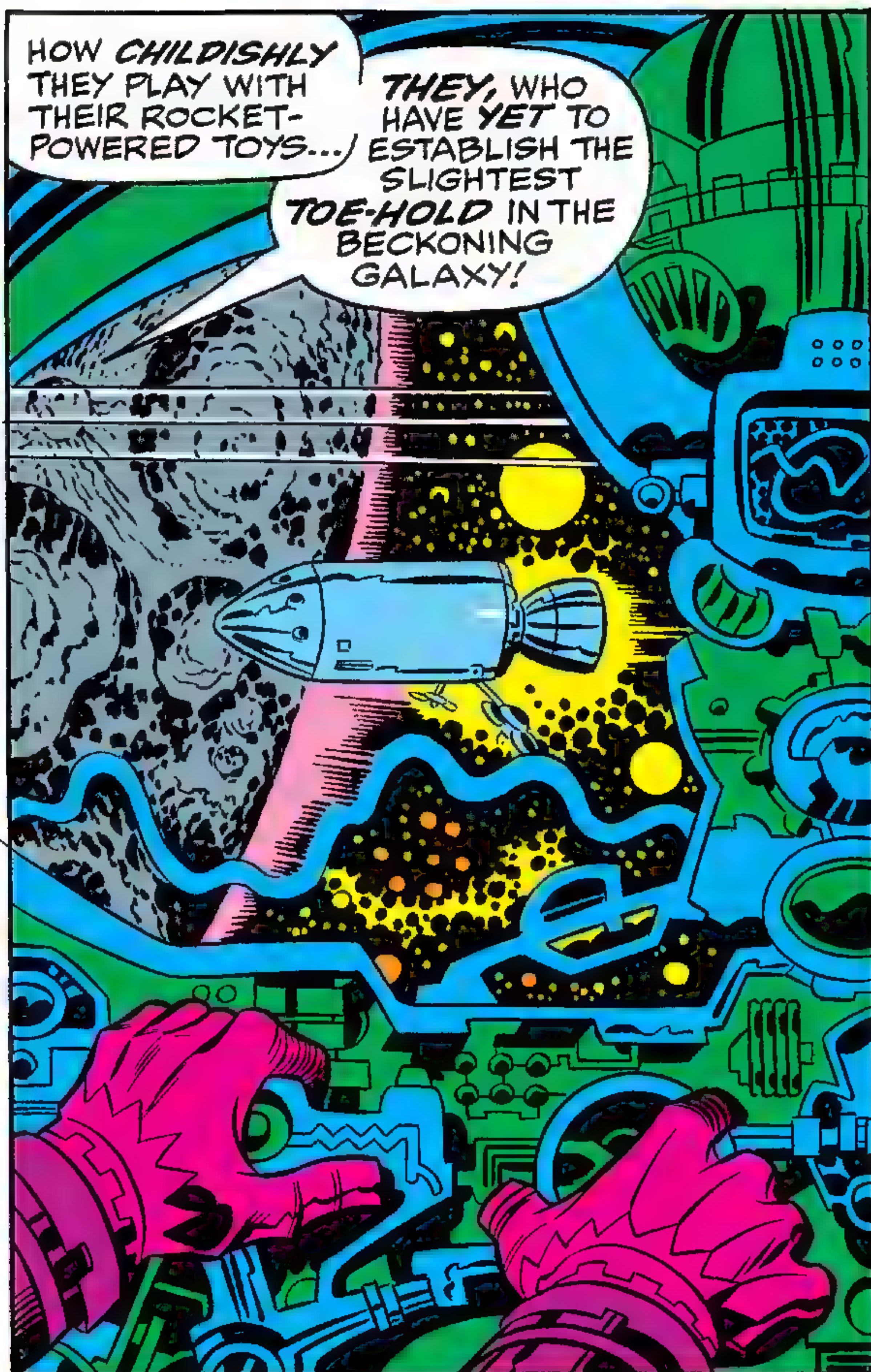
IT HAS JUST
EJECTED ITS
SECOND STAGE...
PUTTING ITSELF IN
ORBIT AROUND
THE **MOON**!

BUT IT
CAN BE NO
CONCERN
OF OURS!

NOTHING
MUST INTERRUPT
US! **NOTHING**
MUST DETER US
FROM OUR
MISSION!

WE HAVE
ONLY A **SHORT**
TIME LEFT... TO
COLLECT OUR
SLAVES...

BEFORE
THE DEADLY
GAMES
BEGIN!



HOW *CHILDISHLY* THEY PLAY WITH THEIR ROCKET-POWERED TOYS...

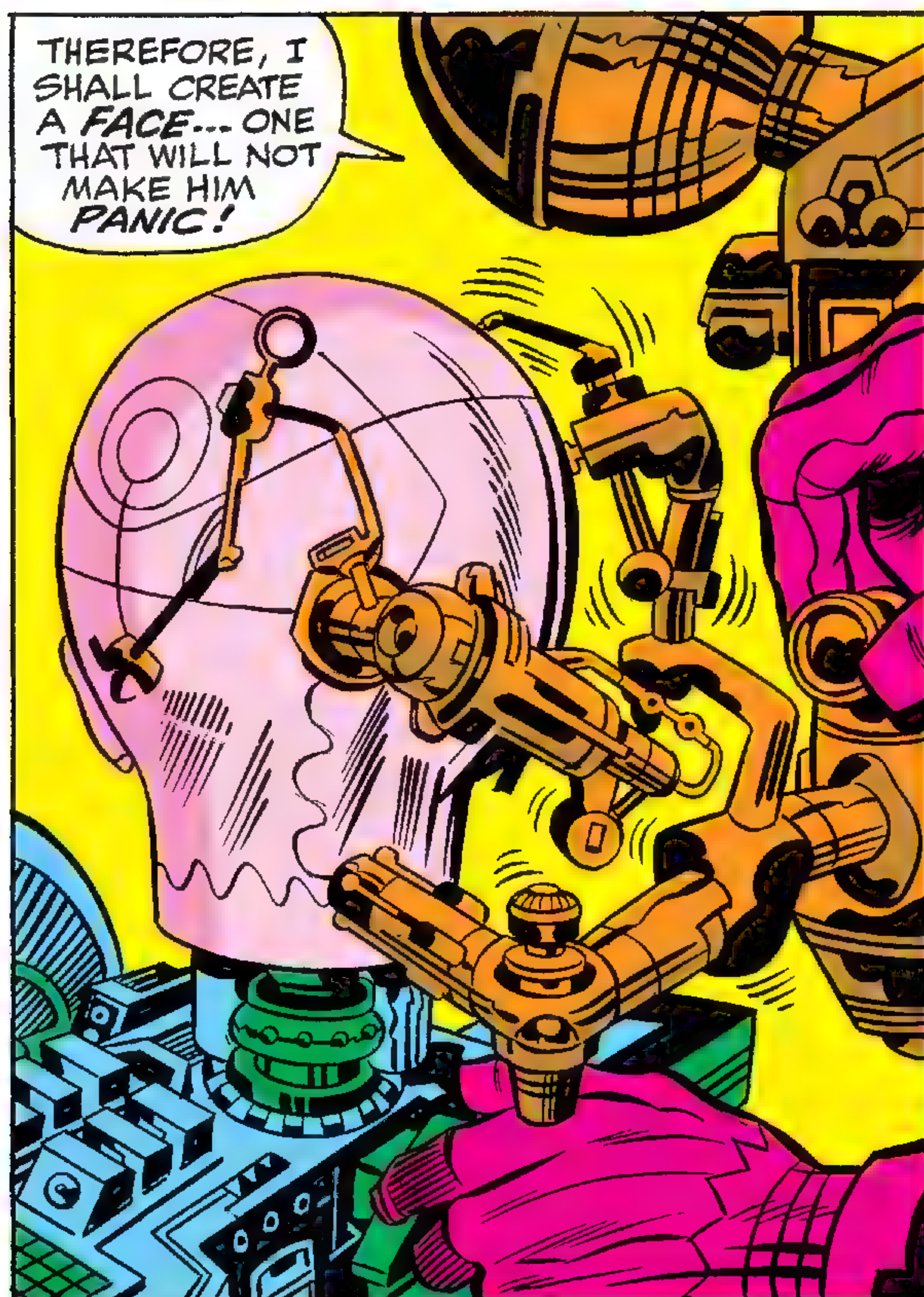
THEY, WHO HAVE YET TO ESTABLISH THE SLIGHTEST *TOE-HOLD* IN THE BECKONING GALAXY!



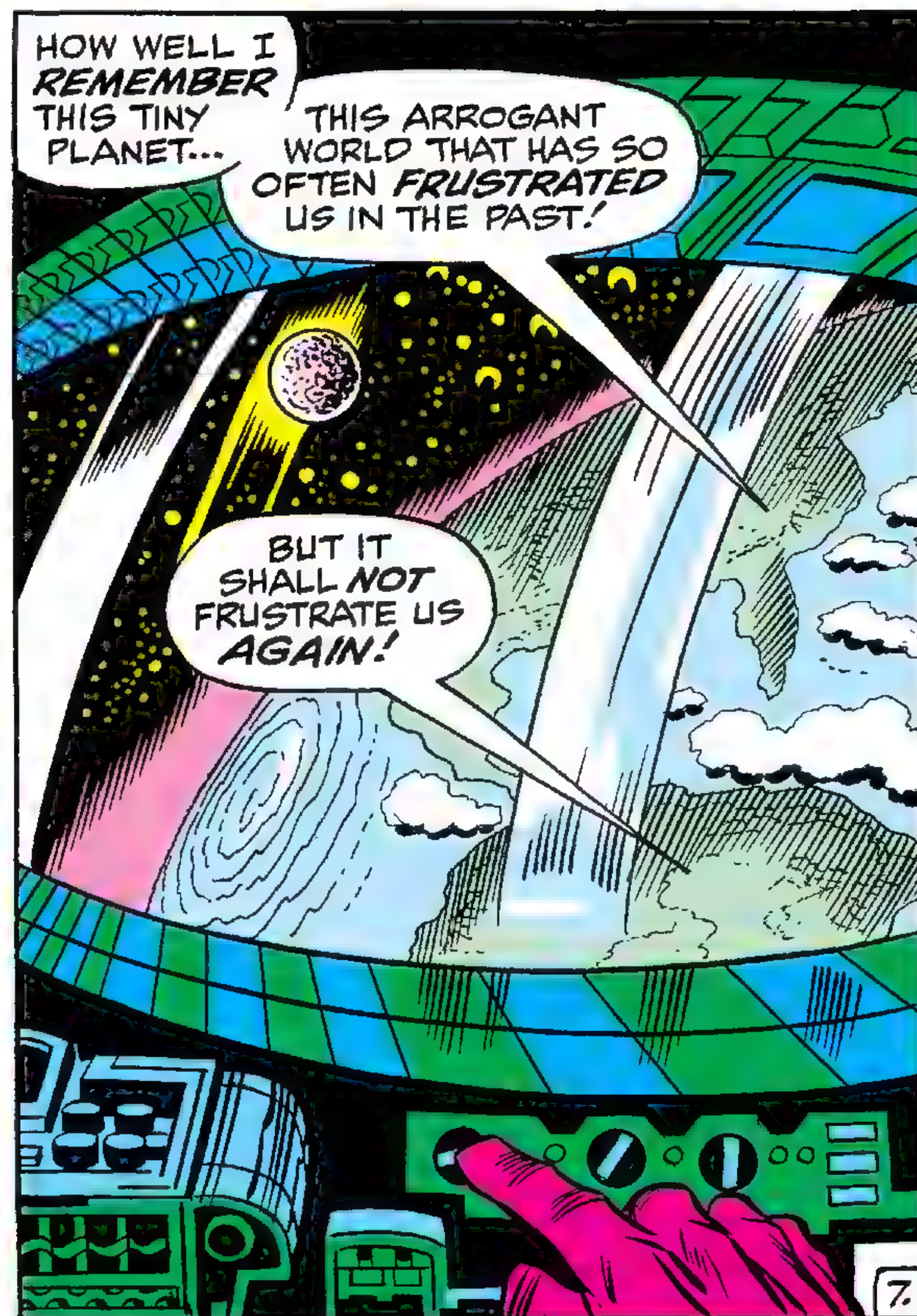
CONTINUE TO OUR TARGET... UPON THE PLANET *EARTH*!

BUT, WE MUST NOT *FRIGHTEN* OUR VICTIM INTO HIDING!

THE *WEAPON* WITH WHICH I SHALL *CATCH* MY PERFECT SPECIMEN IS PRIMED AND *READY*!



THEREFORE, I SHALL CREATE A *FACE*... ONE THAT WILL NOT MAKE HIM *PANIC*!



HOW WELL I *REMEMBER* THIS TINY PLANET...

THIS ARROGANT WORLD THAT HAS SO OFTEN *FRUSTRATED* US IN THE PAST!

BUT IT SHALL NOT *FRUSTRATE* US AGAIN!

EVEN THOUGH OUR **KING... THE SKRULL SUPREME...** HAS ORDERED EARTH **OFF-LIMITS** TO OUR CONQUERING STAR FLEETS...

THAT IS **ONE** ORDER WHICH I CHOOSE TO **DISOBEY!**

NOTHING IN ALL THE SKRULL GALAXY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN... **THE GAMES!**

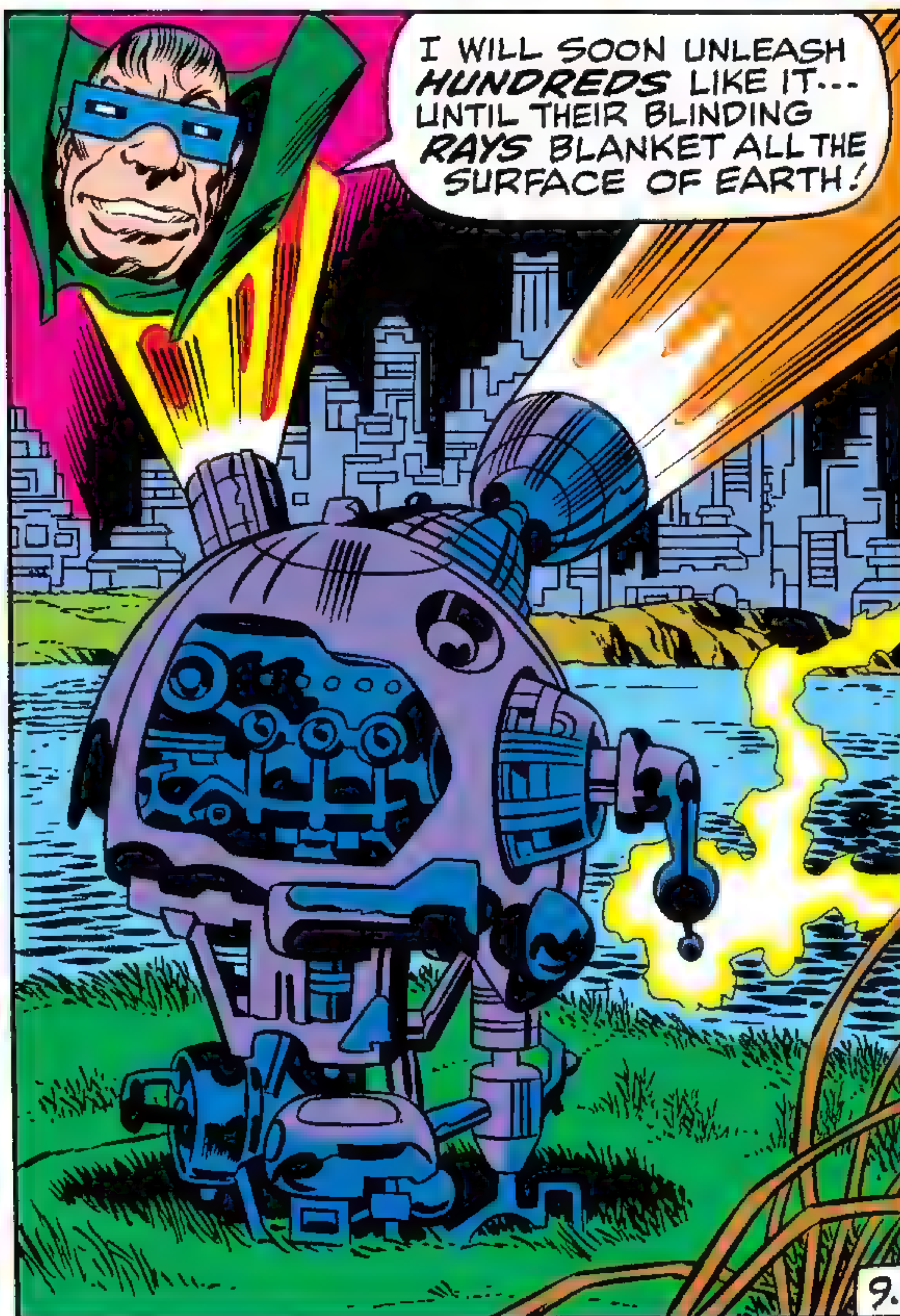
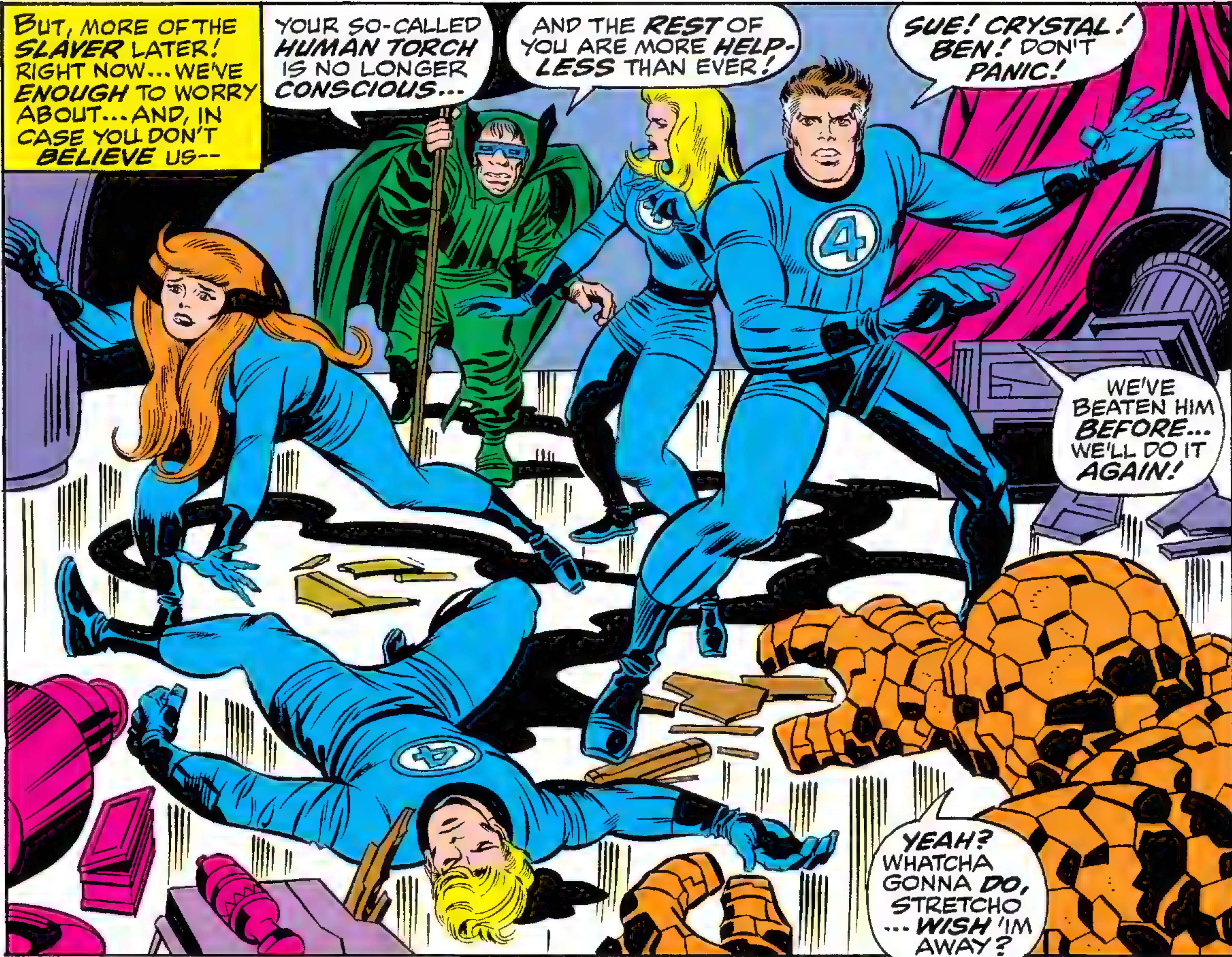
AND I... **THE SLAVER...** MUST BRING TO THE GAMES THE **GREATEST PLAYER** OF ALL!

THERE BELOW ME... ON THAT WAITING PLANET... IS THE VICTIM I **SEEK...**

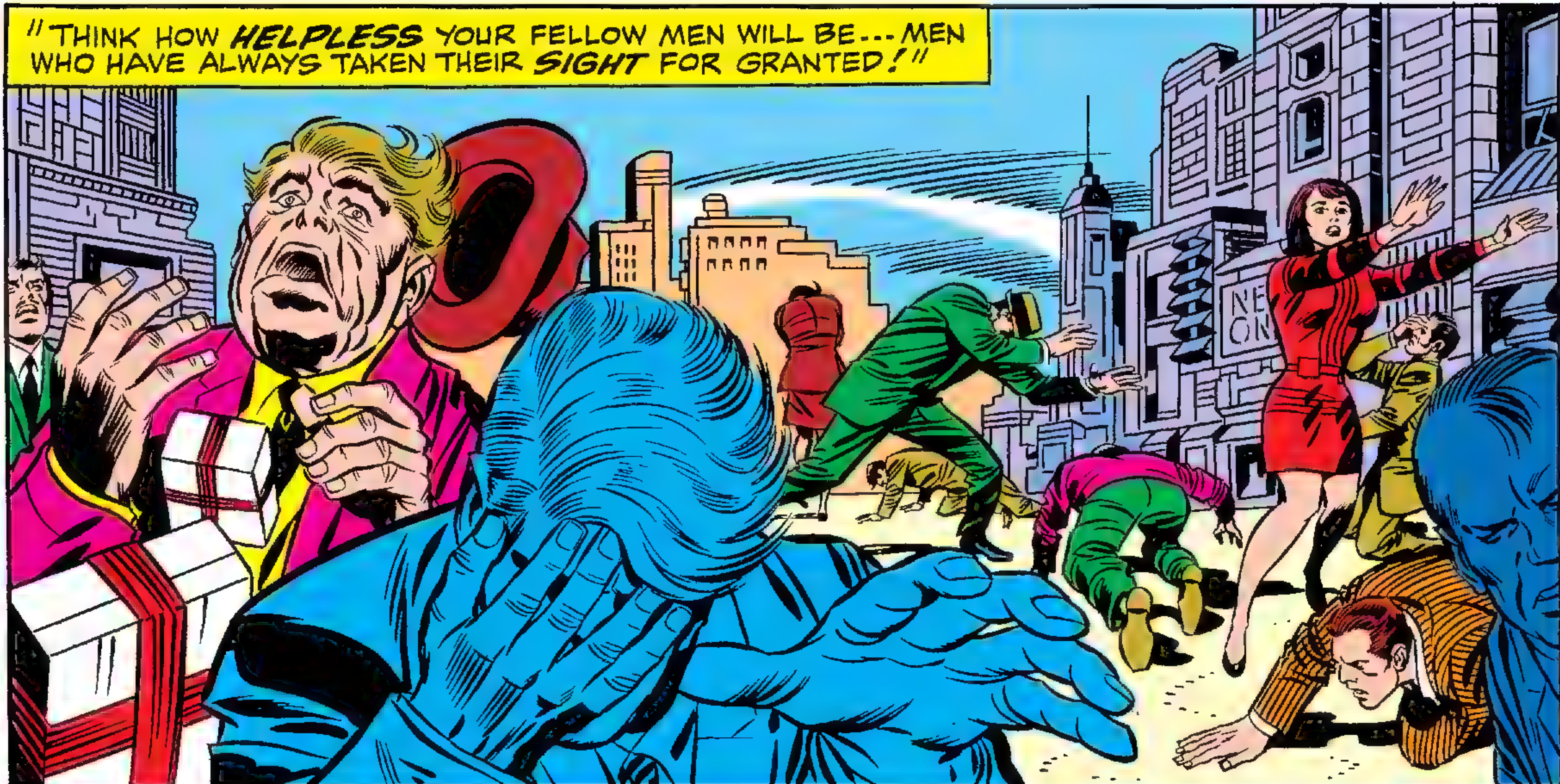
THE VICTIM WHO WILL FETCH ME THE **HIGHEST PRICE** EVER PAID FOR A CAPTIVE **PLAYER!**



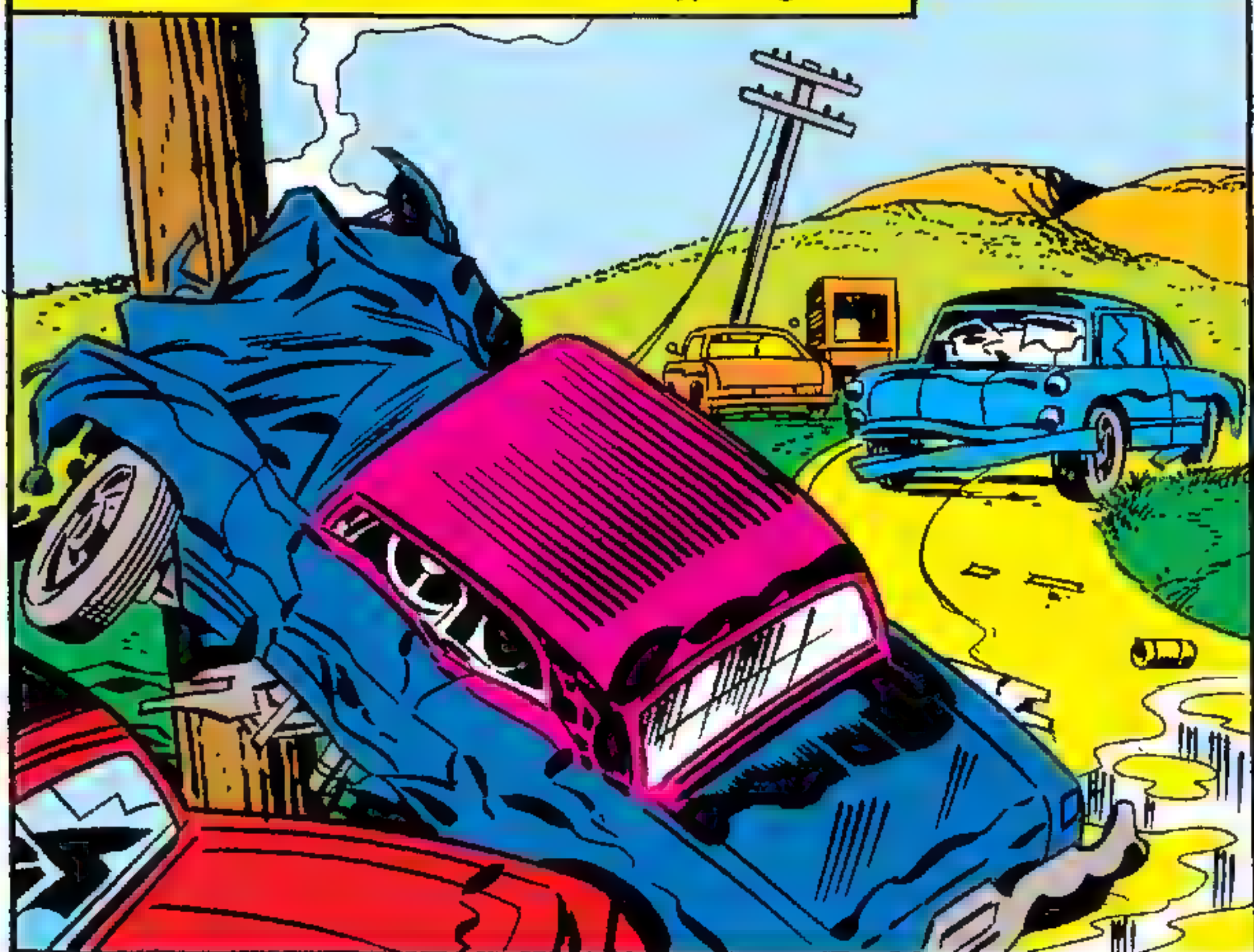
NOTHING MUST STOP ME FROM **CAPTURING** HIM... AND BRINGING HIM AS MY **GREATEST PRIZE...** TO THE WORLD OF... **THE SKRULLS!!**



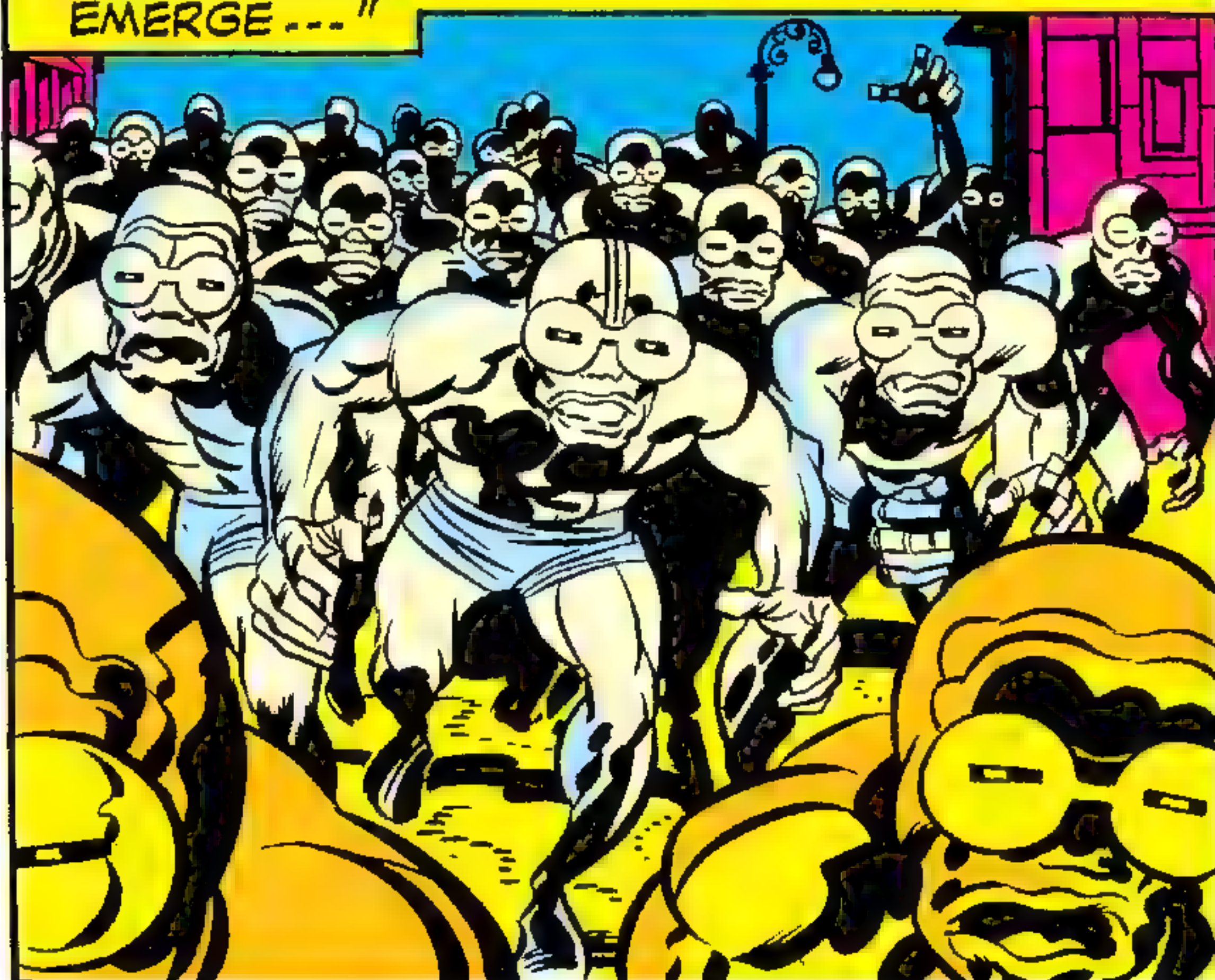
"THINK HOW **HELPLESS** YOUR FELLOW MEN WILL BE... MEN WHO HAVE ALWAYS TAKEN THEIR **SIGHT** FOR GRANTED!"



"HUMANITY WILL **PANIC!** CIVILIZATION WILL COME TO A **STANDSTILL!** IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, THE WORLD WILL BE IN **CHAOS!**"



"AND THEN, FROM BENEATH THE SURFACE... FROM WITHIN MY UNDERGROUND KINGDOM... MY BLINDLY OBEDIENT **SUBTERRANEANS** WILL EMERGE..."



MY CONQUEST WILL BE **COMPLETE!**

I, THE **MOLE MAN**, BANISHED FROM MY FELLOW MEN HALF A LIFETIME AGO... WILL RETURN AT LAST... AS **MASTER OF THE EARTH!**

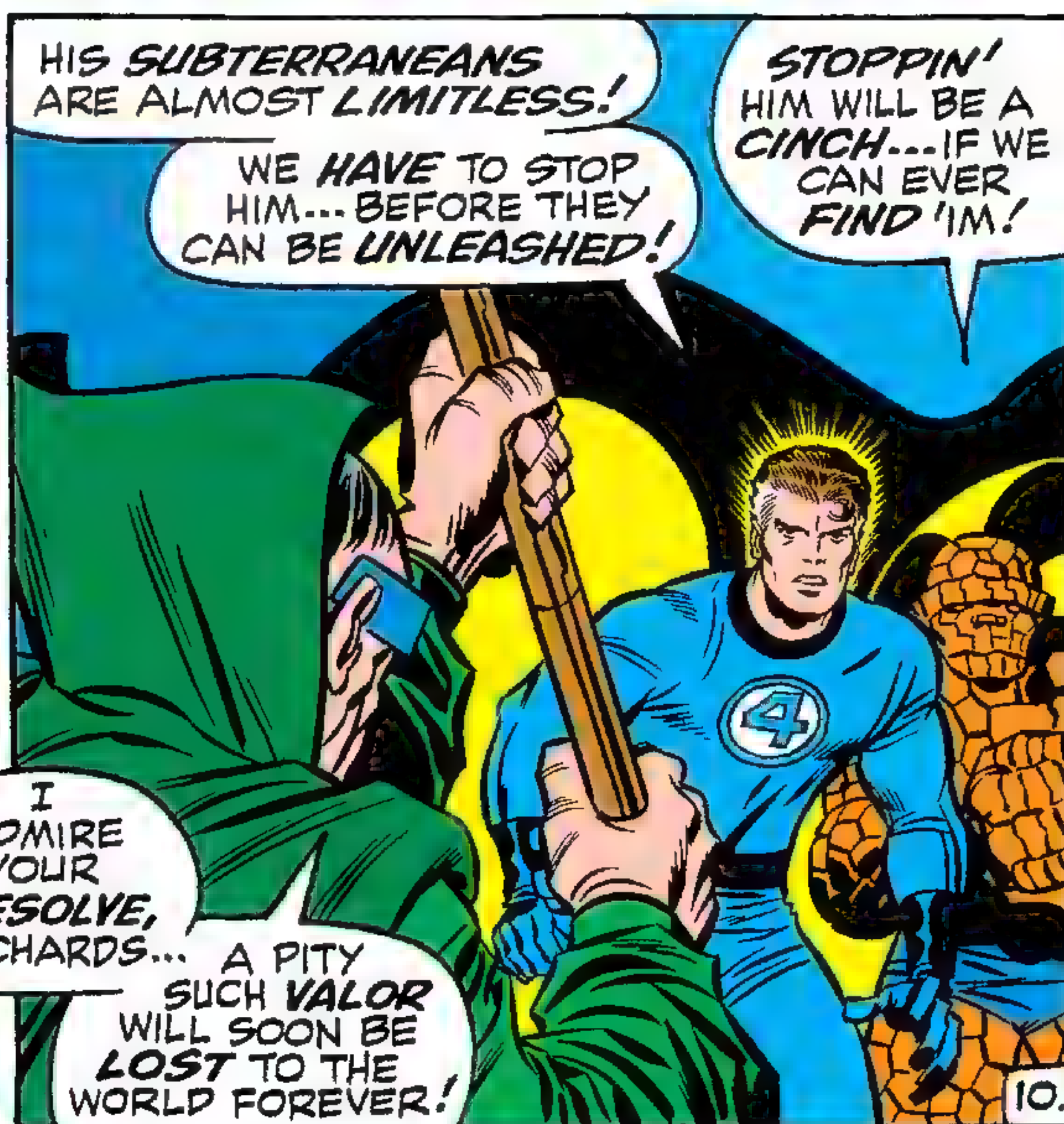


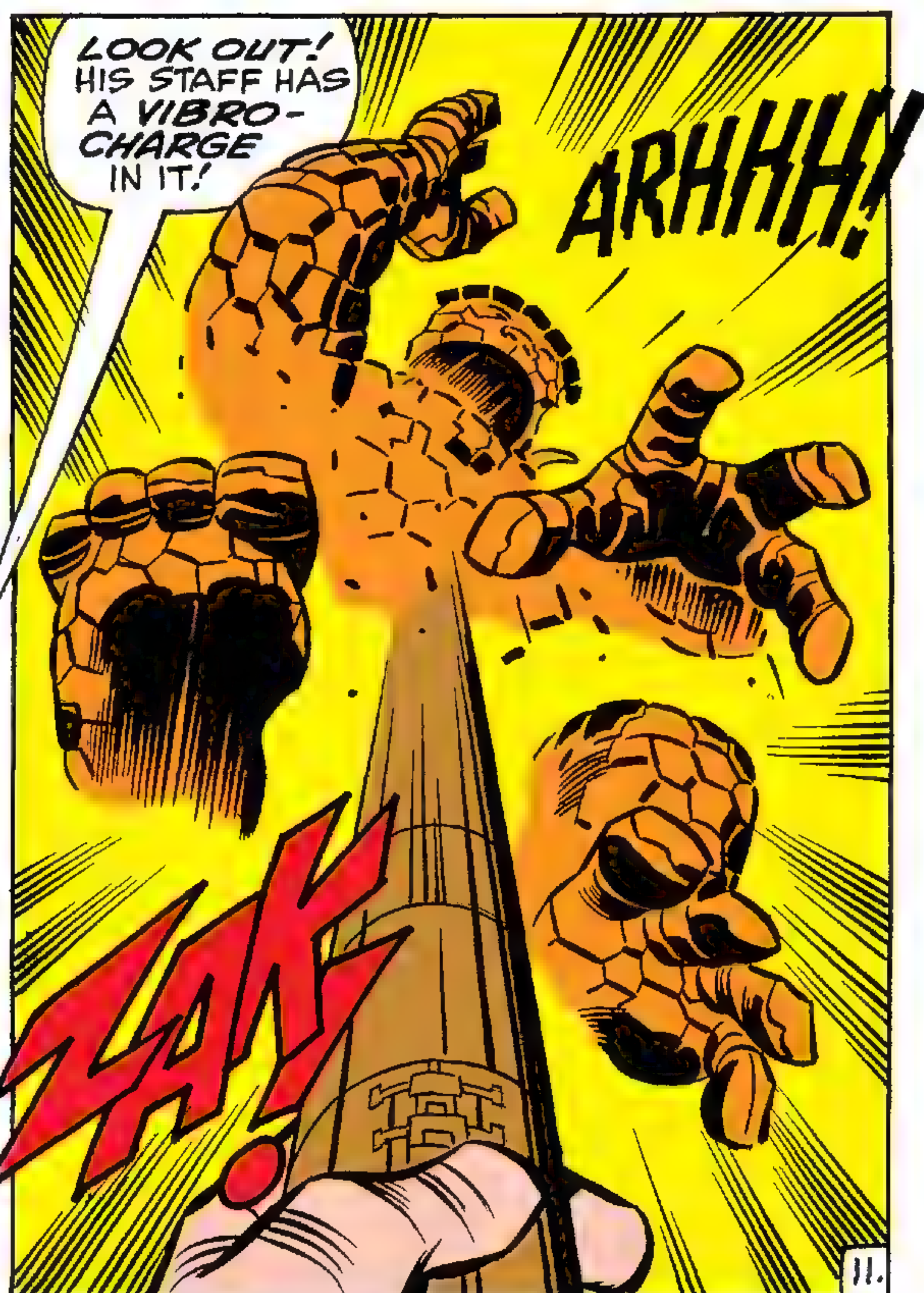
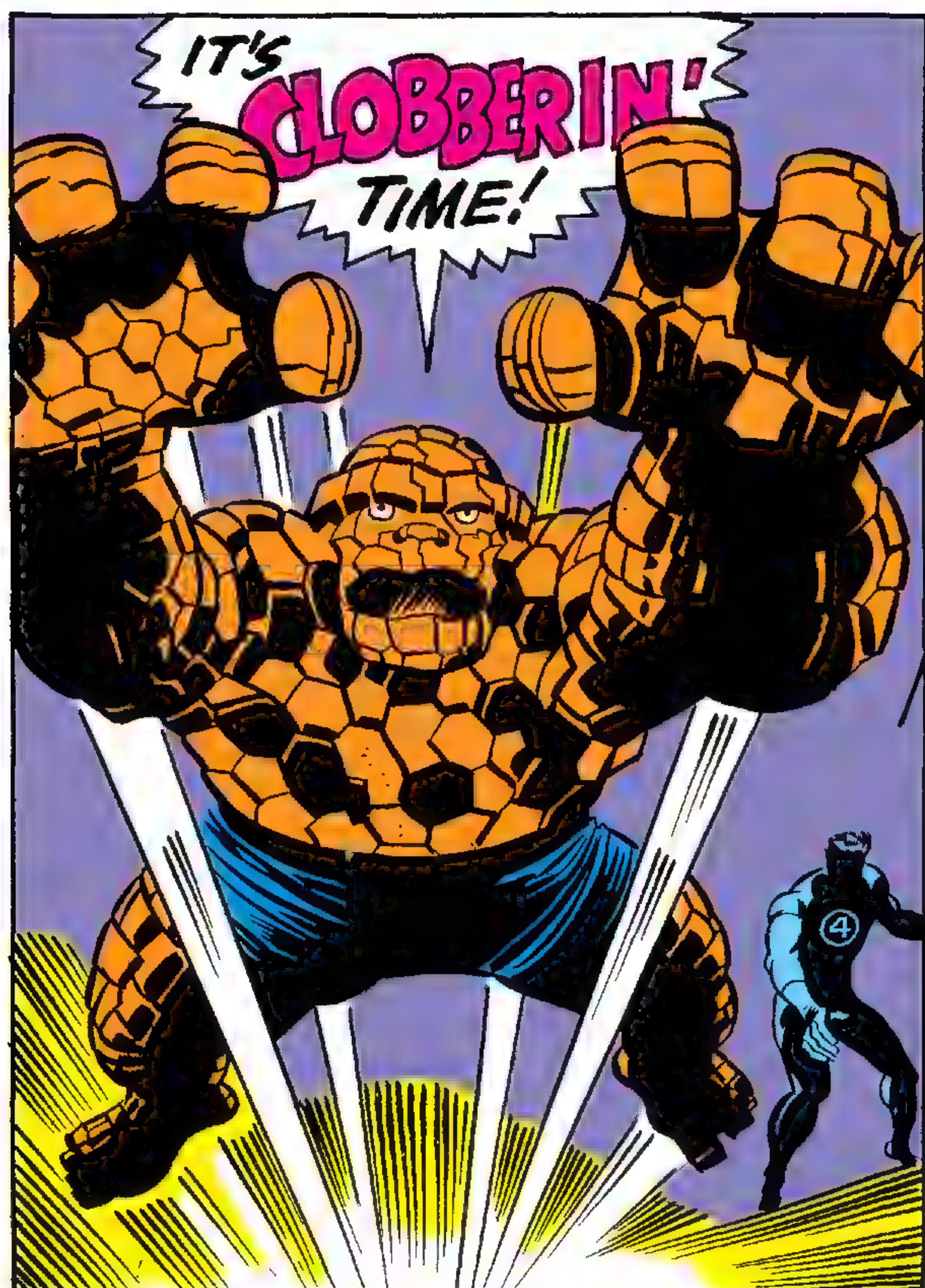
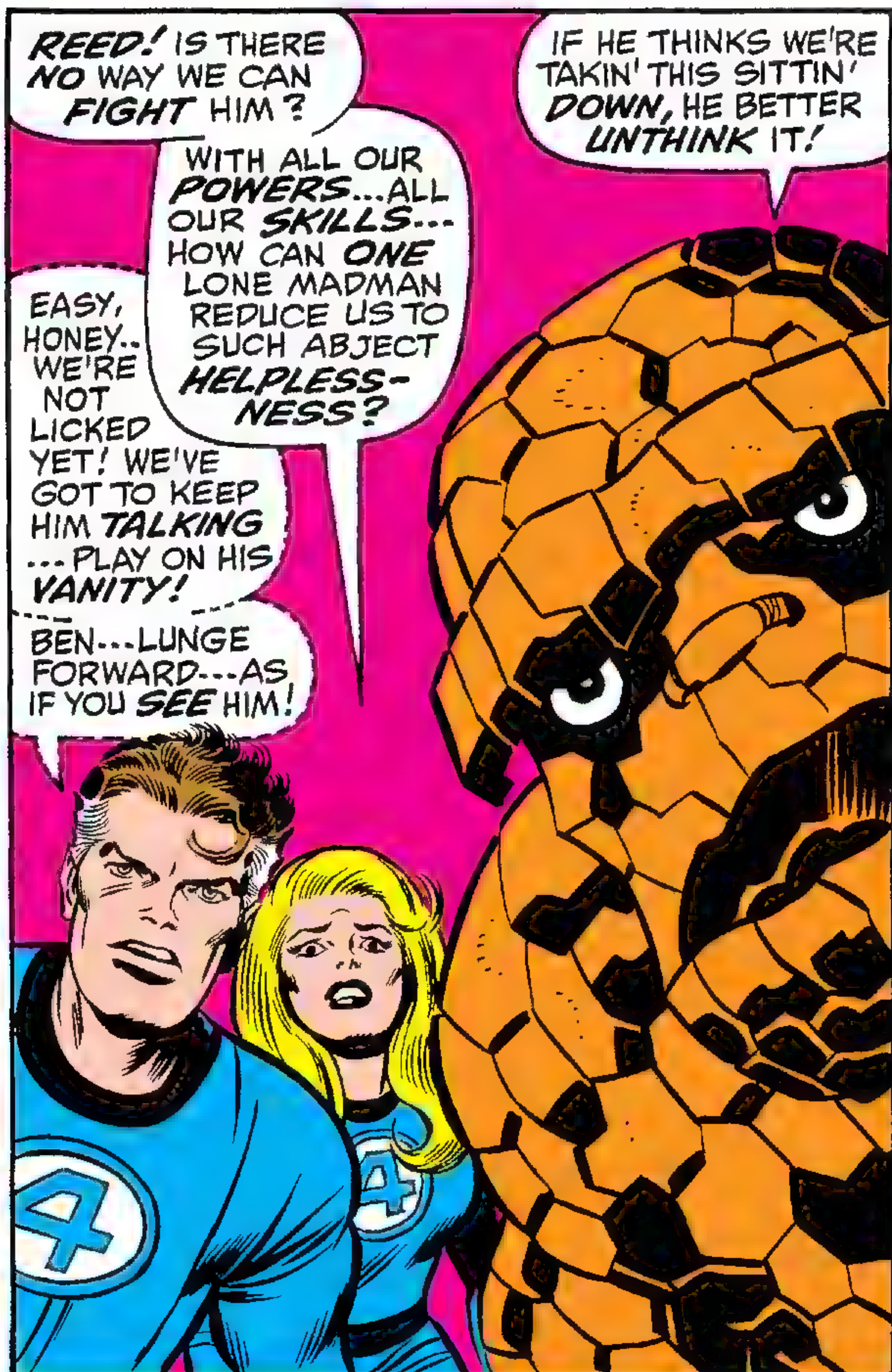
HIS **SUBTERRANEANS** ARE ALMOST **LIMITLESS!**

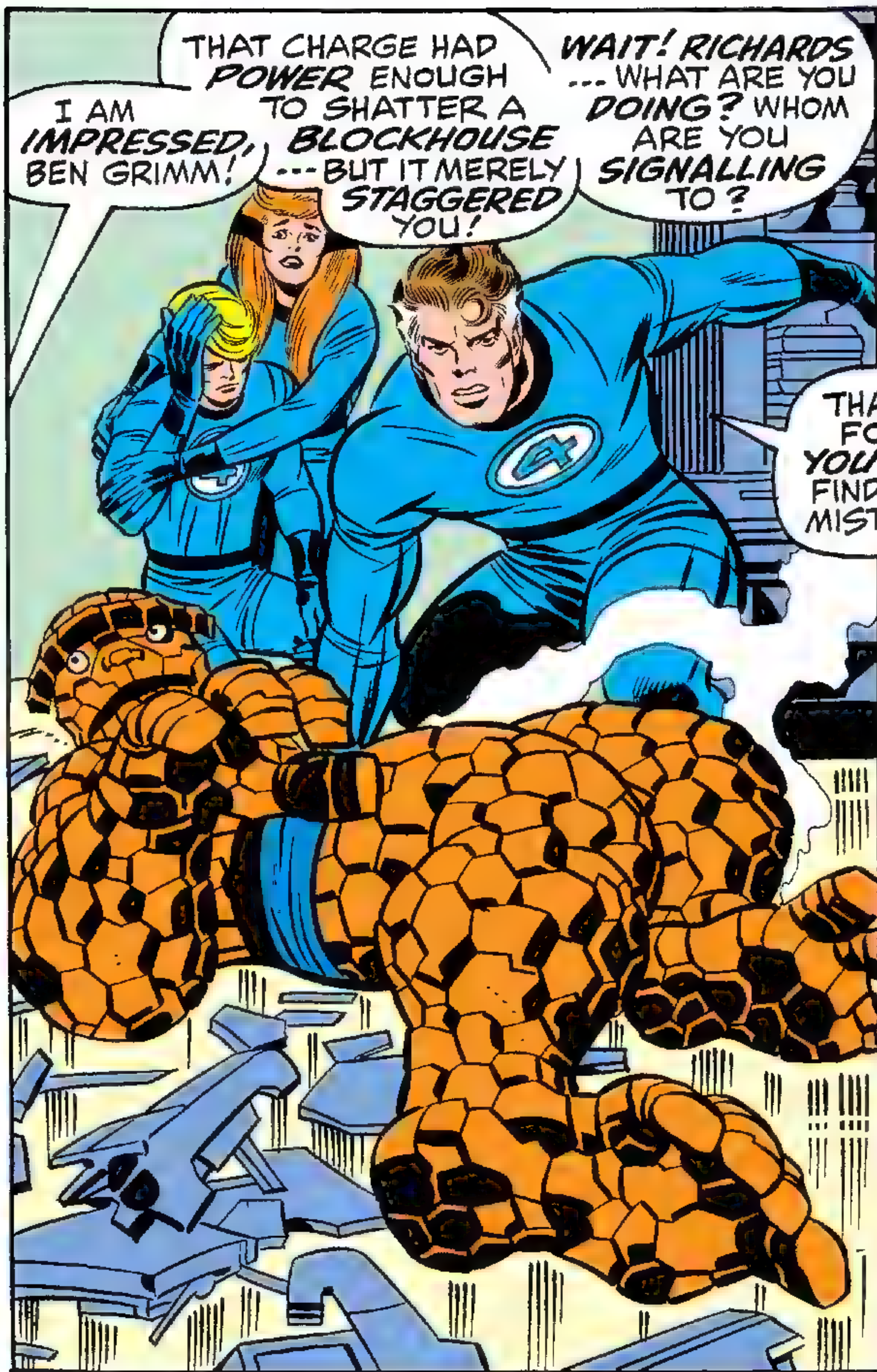
WE HAVE TO STOP HIM... BEFORE THEY CAN BE **UNLEASHED!**

STOPPIN'! HIM WILL BE A **CINCH...** IF WE CAN EVER **FIND 'IM!**

I ADMIRE YOUR **RESOLVE**, RICHARDS... A PITY SUCH **VALOR** WILL SOON BE **LOST TO THE WORLD FOREVER!**





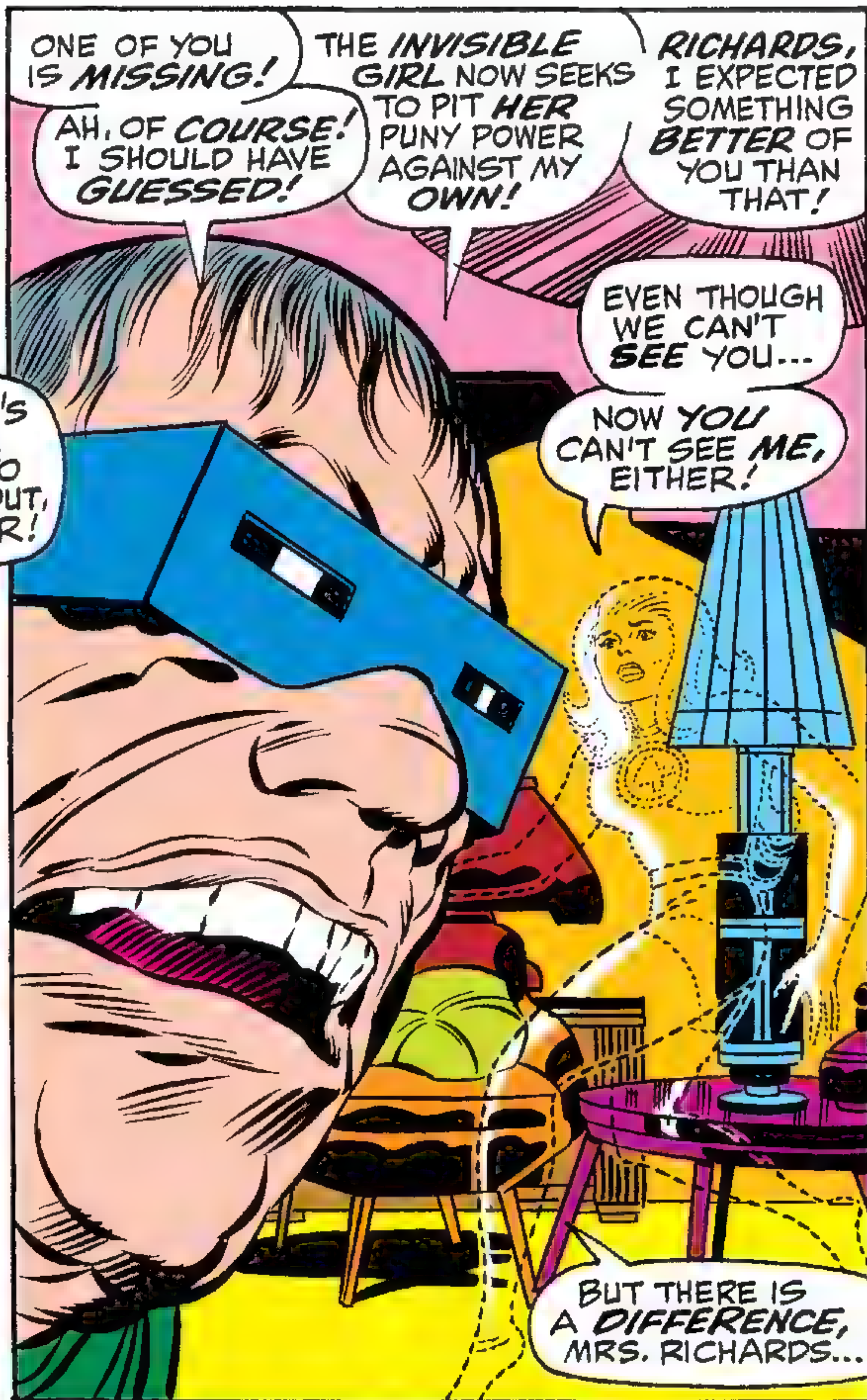


I AM IMPRESSED, BEN GRIMM!

THAT CHARGE HAD POWER ENOUGH TO SHATTER A BLOCKHOUSE --- BUT IT MERELY STAGGERED YOU!

WAIT! RICHARDS --- WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHOM ARE YOU SIGNALLING TO?

THAT'S FOR YOU TO FIND OUT, MISTER!



ONE OF YOU IS MISSING!

AH, OF COURSE! I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED!

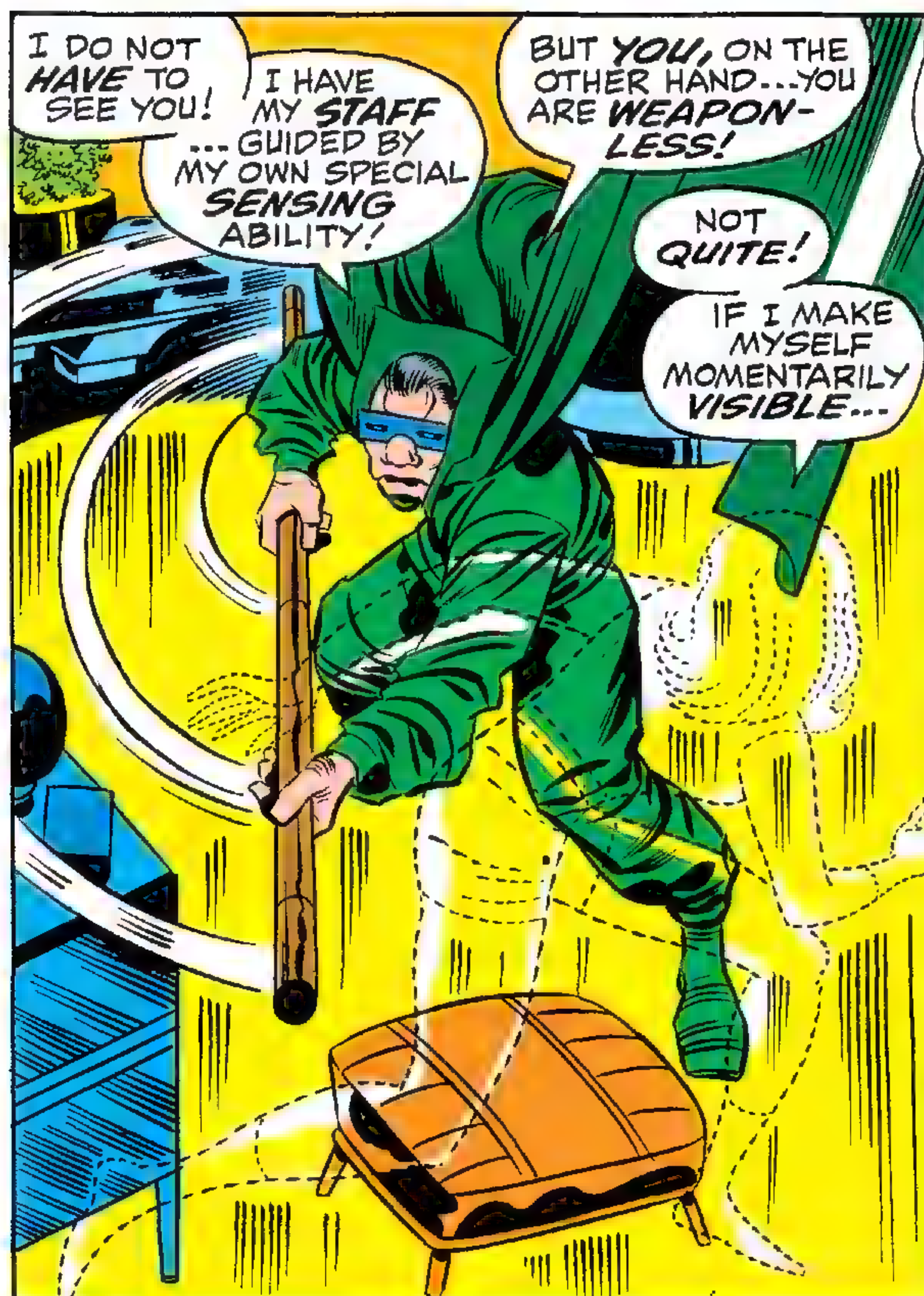
THE INVISIBLE GIRL NOW SEEKS TO PIT HER PUNY POWER AGAINST MY OWN!

RICHARDS, I EXPECTED SOMETHING BETTER OF YOU THAN THAT!

EVEN THOUGH WE CAN'T SEE YOU...

NOW YOU CAN'T SEE ME, EITHER!

BUT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE, MRS. RICHARDS...



I DO NOT HAVE TO SEE YOU!

I HAVE MY STAFF --- GUIDED BY MY OWN SPECIAL SENSING ABILITY!

BUT YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND... YOU ARE WEAPON-LESS!

NOT QUITE!

IF I MAKE MYSELF MOMENTARILY VISIBLE...



I CAN NOW HURL UNSEEN FORCE-SPHERES AT THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE!

A CLEVER PLOY, MY DEAR...

A PITY IT WILL SERVE YOU TO NO AVAIL!



I *SENSED* THAT YOUR **MR. FANTASTIC** WOULD ATTEMPT TO **HURL** HIMSELF AT ME WHILE YOU SERVED AS A DISTRACTION!

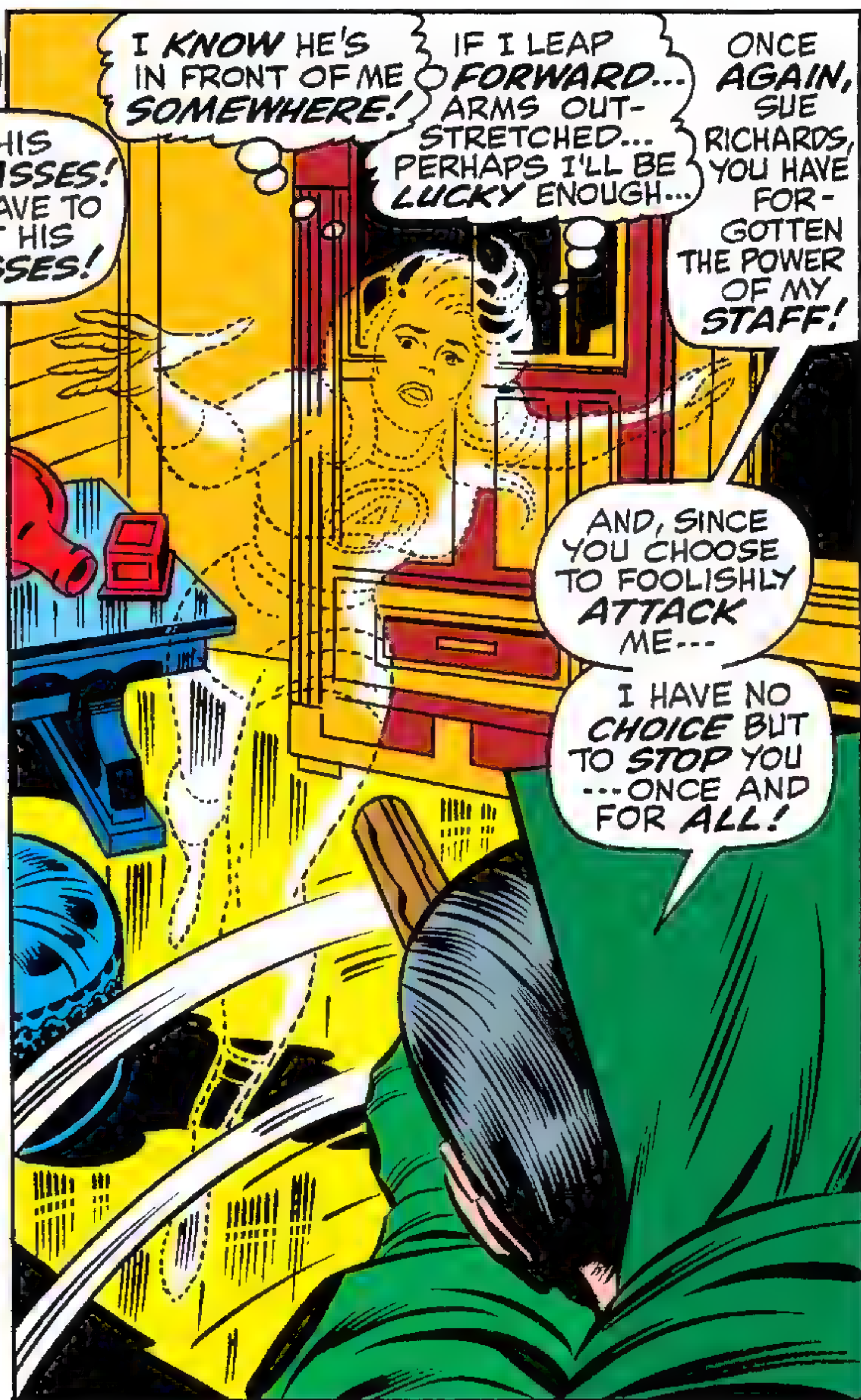
BUT YOU HAVE UNDER-ESTIMATED BOTH MY **SPEED...** AND MY **BATTLE PROWESS!**

UNNH!

I... **MISSED** HIM!

BUT WE MUSTN'T **GIVE UP!**

HIS **GLASSES!** WE HAVE TO GET HIS **GLASSES!**



I **KNOW** HE'S IN FRONT OF ME **SOMEWHERE!**

IF I LEAP **FORWARD...** ARMS OUT-STRETCHED... PERHAPS I'LL BE **LUCKY** ENOUGH...

ONCE AGAIN, **SUE RICHARDS,** YOU HAVE FOR-GOTTEN THE POWER OF MY **STAFF!**

AND, SINCE YOU CHOOSE TO FOOLISHLY **ATTACK** ME...

I HAVE NO **CHOICE** BUT TO **STOP** YOU... ONCE AND FOR **ALL!**

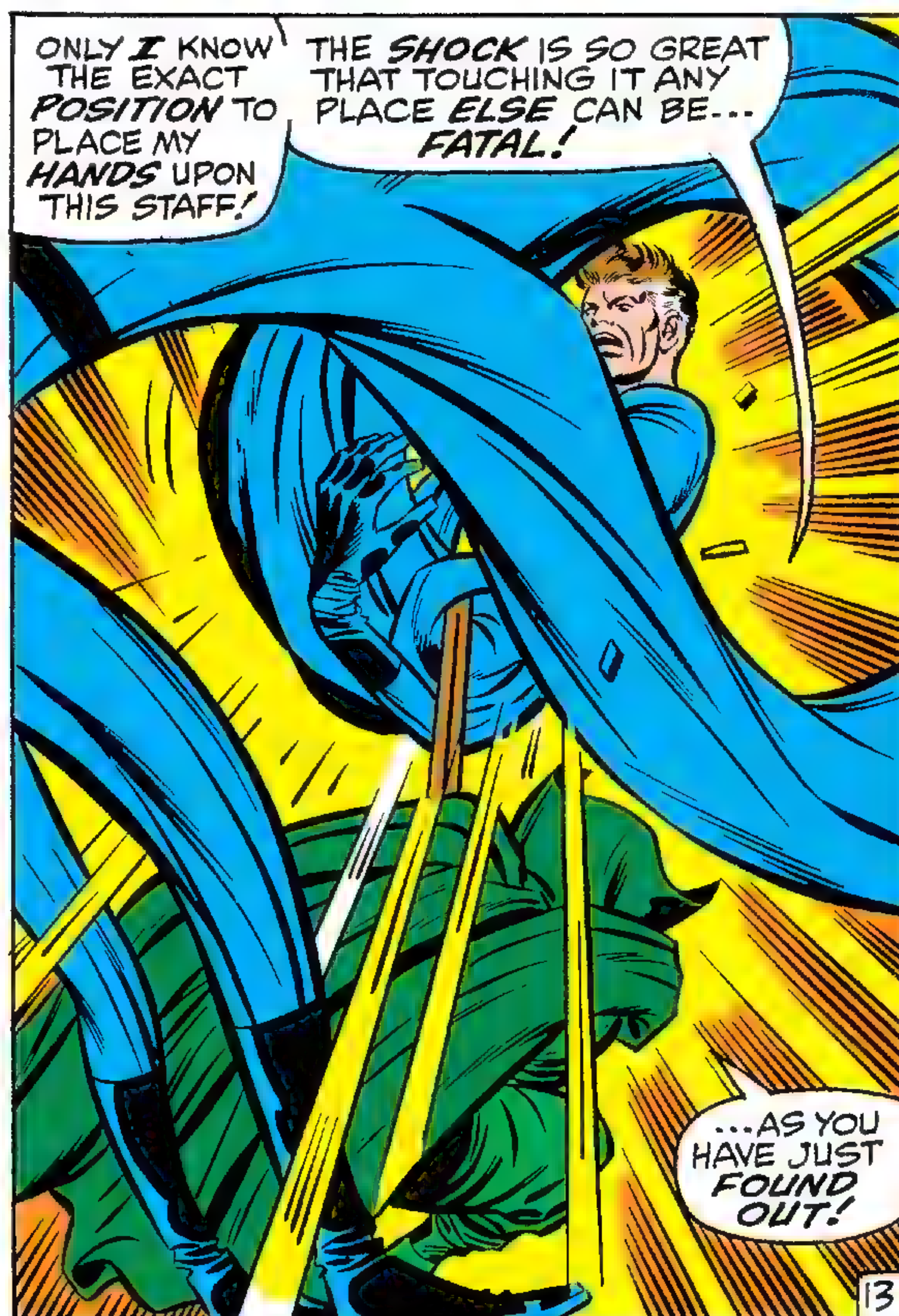


SUE! HIT THE **GROUND!**

I'LL **STRETCH** MY ARMS...AND KEEP **SWINGING** UNTIL---

THERE! I GOT HIM!

YOU **FOOL!** IN SAYING HER... YOU'VE **DESTROYED** YOURSELF!



ONLY **I** KNOW THE EXACT **POSITION** TO PLACE MY **HANDS** UPON THIS **STAFF!**

THE **SHOCK** IS SO GREAT THAT TOUCHING IT ANY PLACE **ELSE** CAN BE... **FATAL!**

...AS YOU HAVE JUST **FOUND OUT!**

AT THAT MOMENT, FEARING FOR THE LIFE OF THE MAN SHE LOVES MOST IN ALL THE WORLD, **SUE RICHARDS** LUNGES FORTH LIKE AN UNCAINED **TIGRESS**... UNTHINKING, UNFEELING, HEADLESS OF THE RISK... DESIRING ONLY TO **PUNISH** THE ONE WHO HAS INJURED HER **HUSBAND**...!

AND, IN HER BLIND **FURY**...THE DESPERATE WOMAN'S FINGERS FIND THEIR MARK...!

YOUR GLASSES!
I HAVE THEM!

NO!
NO!
YOU MUSTN'T!
YOU CAN'T...!

MY EYES ARE TOO SENSITIVE!
I NEED THEIR PROTECTION!

THEN REED WAS RIGHT!
WE FOUND YOUR ONE WEAKNESS!

WITHOUT THEM I CANNOT...I DARE NOT... FACE THE PAINFUL **LIGHT**!

I'VE DWELLED TOO LONG... IN THE DARKNESS!

YOU DARE TO WHIMPER...TO BEG FOR MERCY... AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

IF MY HUSBAND DIES... BECAUSE OF YOU...

IT WAS HIS FAULT! HE TRIED TO SEIZE THE STAFF!

I'M NOT TO BLAME! I'VE NEVER BEEN TO BLAME!
NEVER! NEVER!



JOHNNY!
I--I CAN
SEE AGAIN!
BUT WHY?
HOW?

ME TOO,
CRYS!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN
THE **SHOCK** FROM
MOLE MAN'S **STAFF**!

WHEN IT
HIT THE **WALL**,
IT BROKE THE
RAY GIZMO!

BUT...WHAT
ABOUT **REED**?

HE LOOKS
BAD, KID...
REAL BAD!

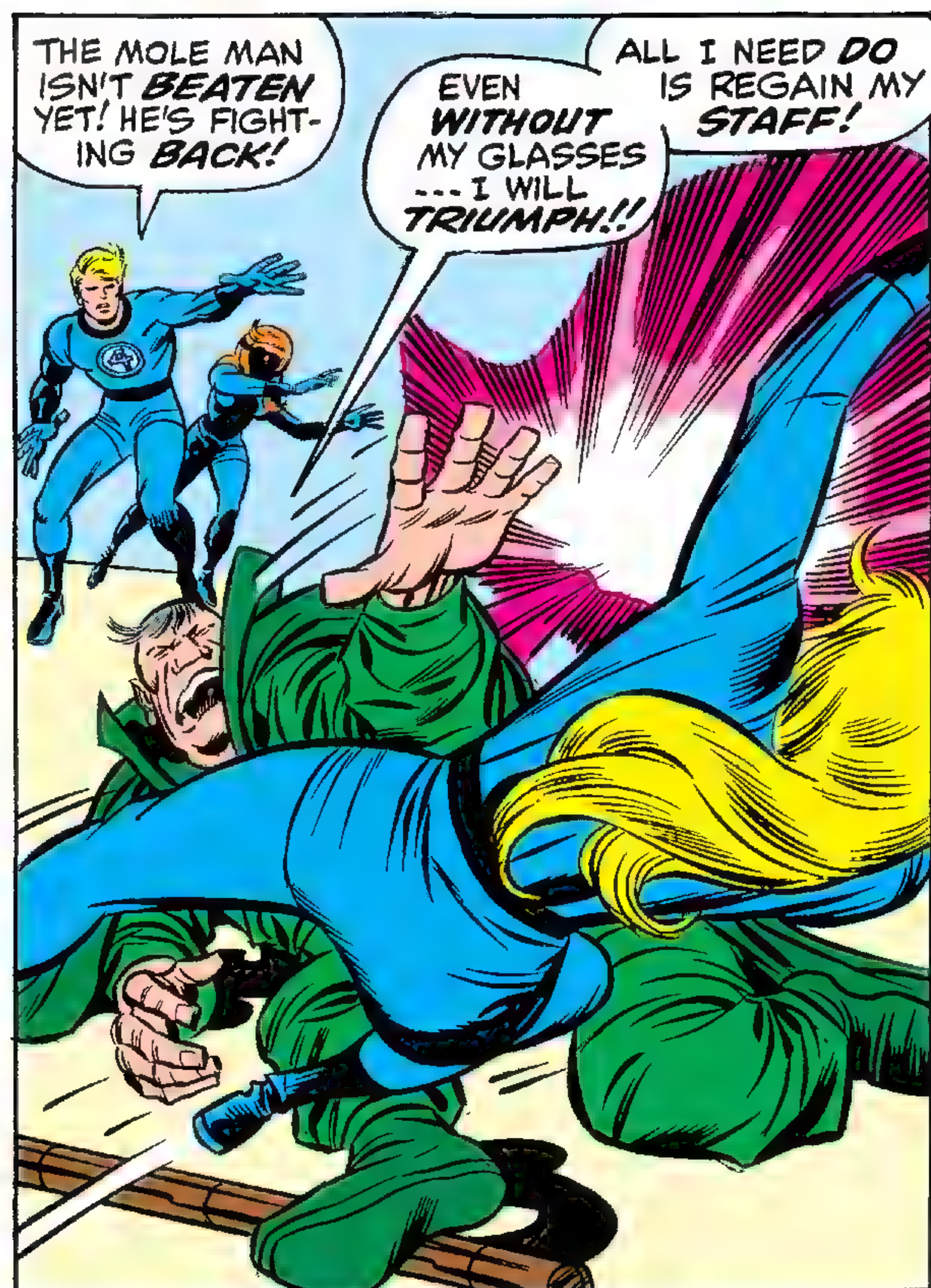


I...NEVER
SEEN 'IM
THIS WAY
BEFORE!

HE'S JUST
LAYIN'
THERE...HE
AIN'T EVEN
BREATHIN'!

IT...IT CAN'T
BE! IF ANYTHING
HAPPENS...
WHAT ABOUT
SUE, AND...

SUE!!
LOOK
OUT!



THE MOLE MAN
ISN'T **BEATEN**
YET! HE'S FIGHT-
ING **BACK**!

EVEN
WITHOUT
MY GLASSES
...I WILL
TRIUMPH!!

ALL I NEED DO
IS REGAIN MY
STAFF!

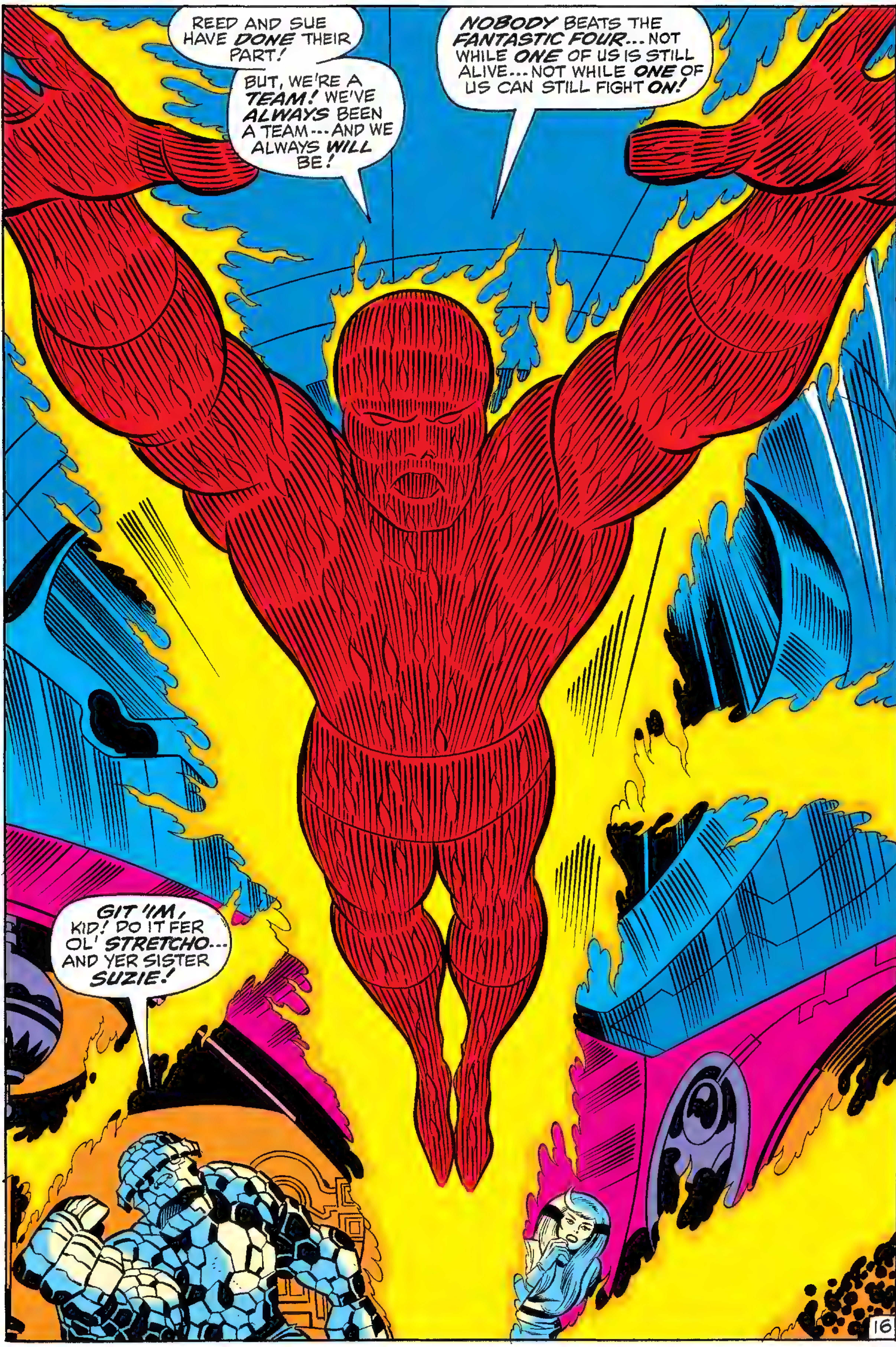


I'LL **USE** IT TO
CRUSH THE
FANTASTIC
FOUR...

AND THEN...
I'LL SUMMON
MY LEGION OF
SUBTERRANEANS
...JUST AS I
PLANNED!

JOHNNY!
ONLY YOU
CAN SAVE
HER **NOW**!

FLAME
ON!

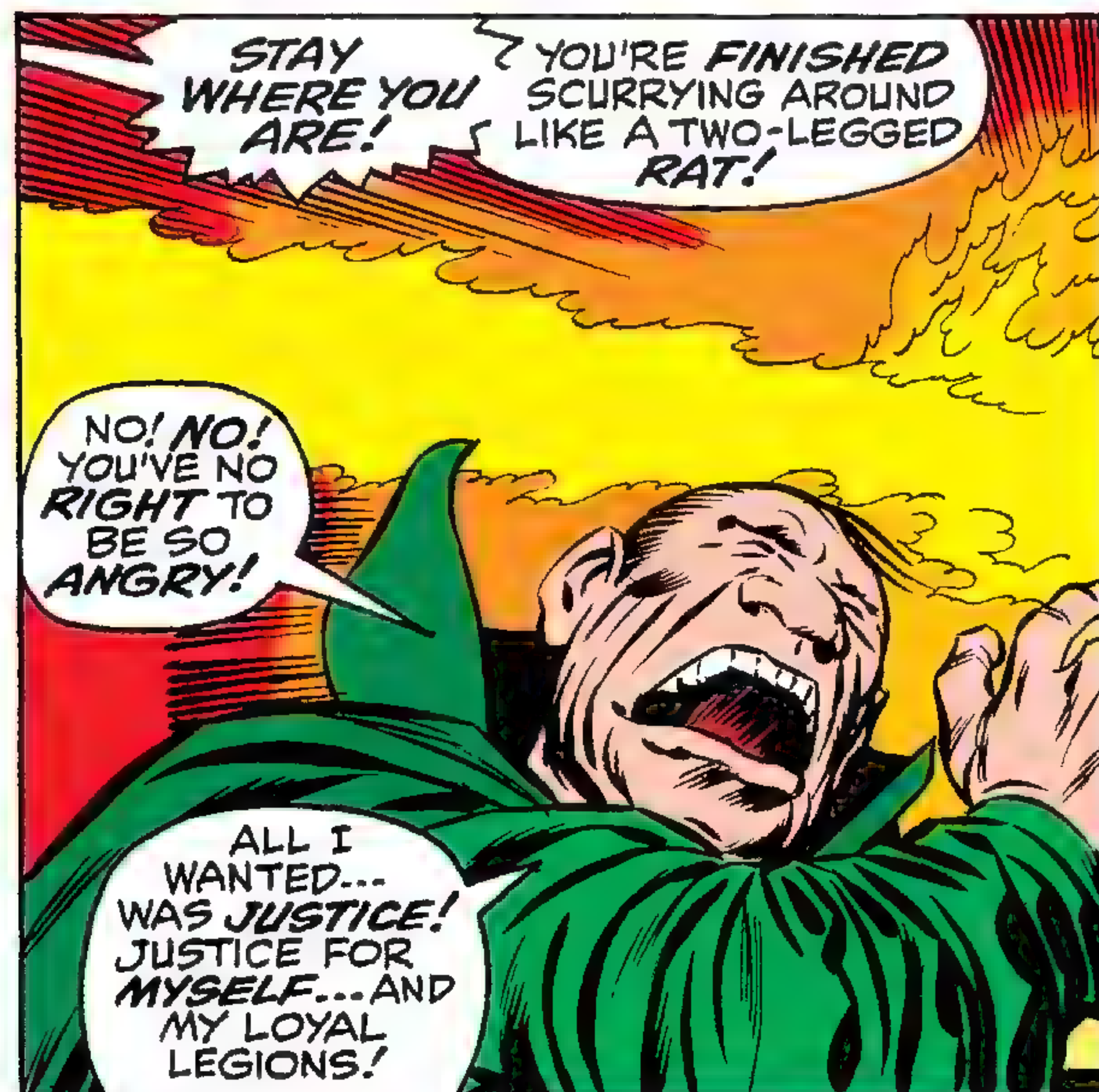
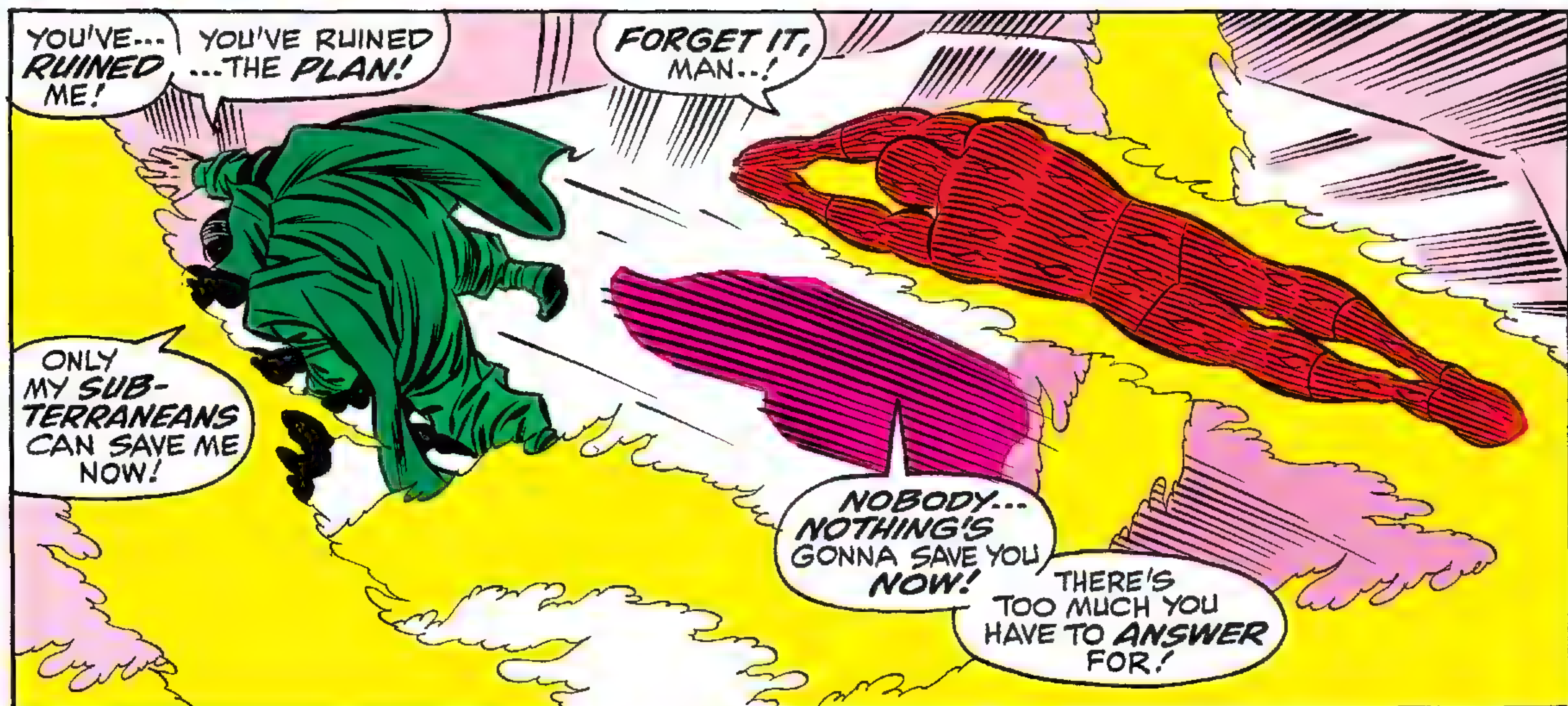
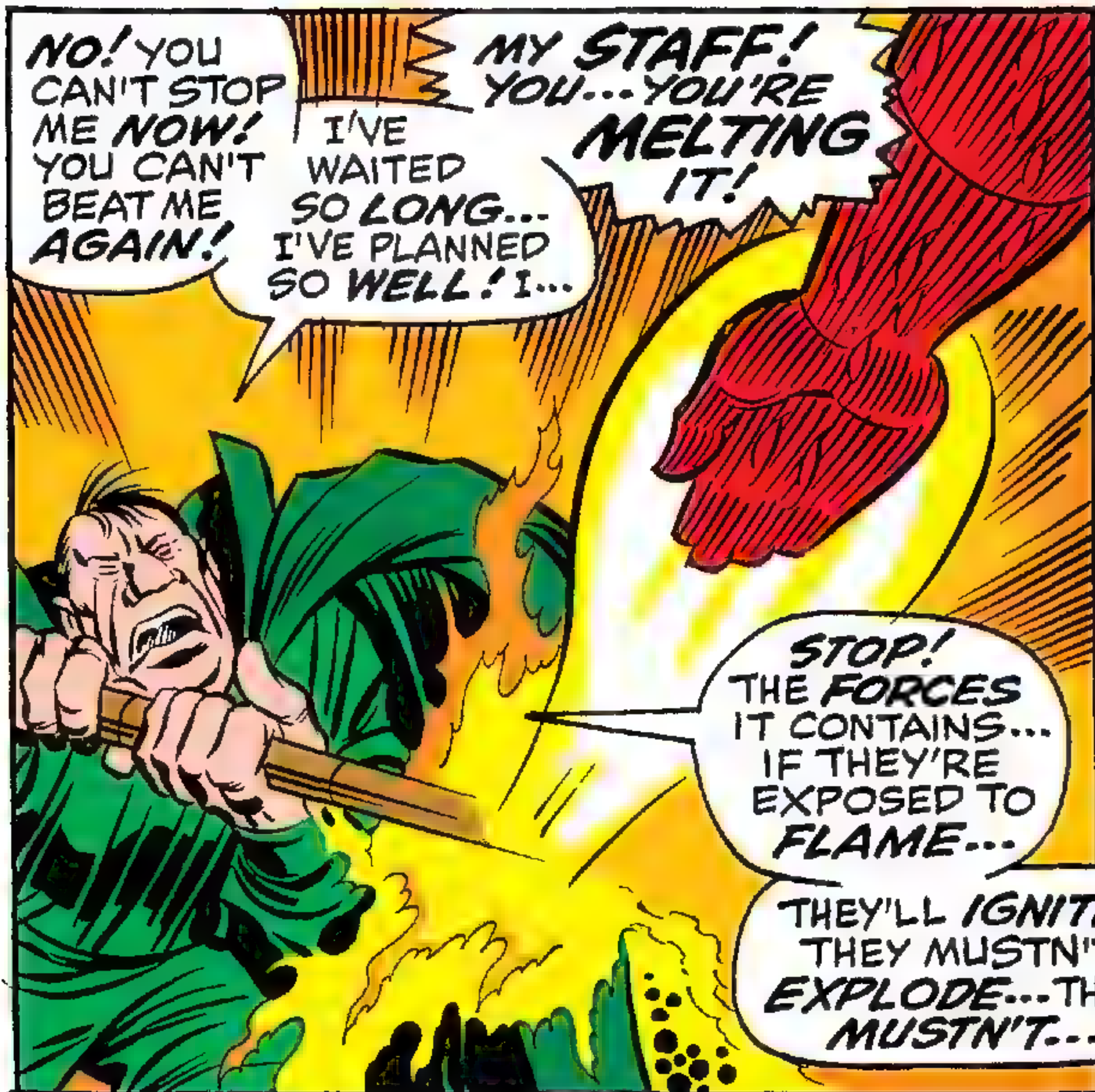


REED AND SUE
HAVE *DONE* THEIR
PART!

BUT, WE'RE A
TEAM! WE'VE
ALWAYS BEEN
A TEAM...AND WE
ALWAYS *WILL*
BE!

NOBODY BEATS THE
FANTASTIC FOUR...NOT
WHILE *ONE* OF US IS STILL
ALIVE...NOT WHILE *ONE* OF
US CAN STILL FIGHT *ON!*

GIT 'IM,
KID! DO IT FER
OL' *STRETCHO*...
AND YER SISTER
SUZIE!

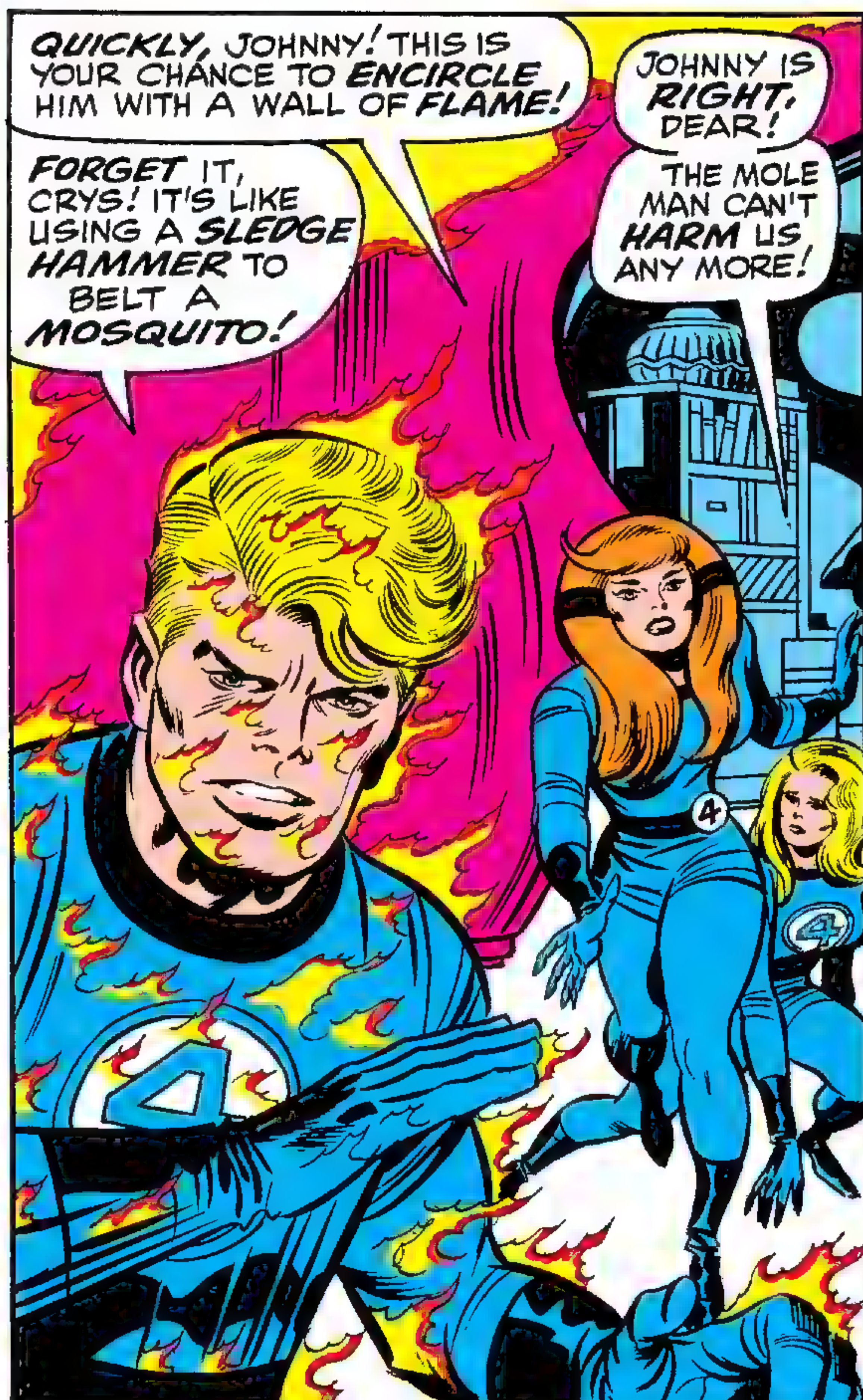




NOW I'VE SEEN **EVERYTHING!**

HE'S JUST LYING THERE... **WEEPING!**

NOBODY UNDERSTANDS! NOBODY... EVER CARES!

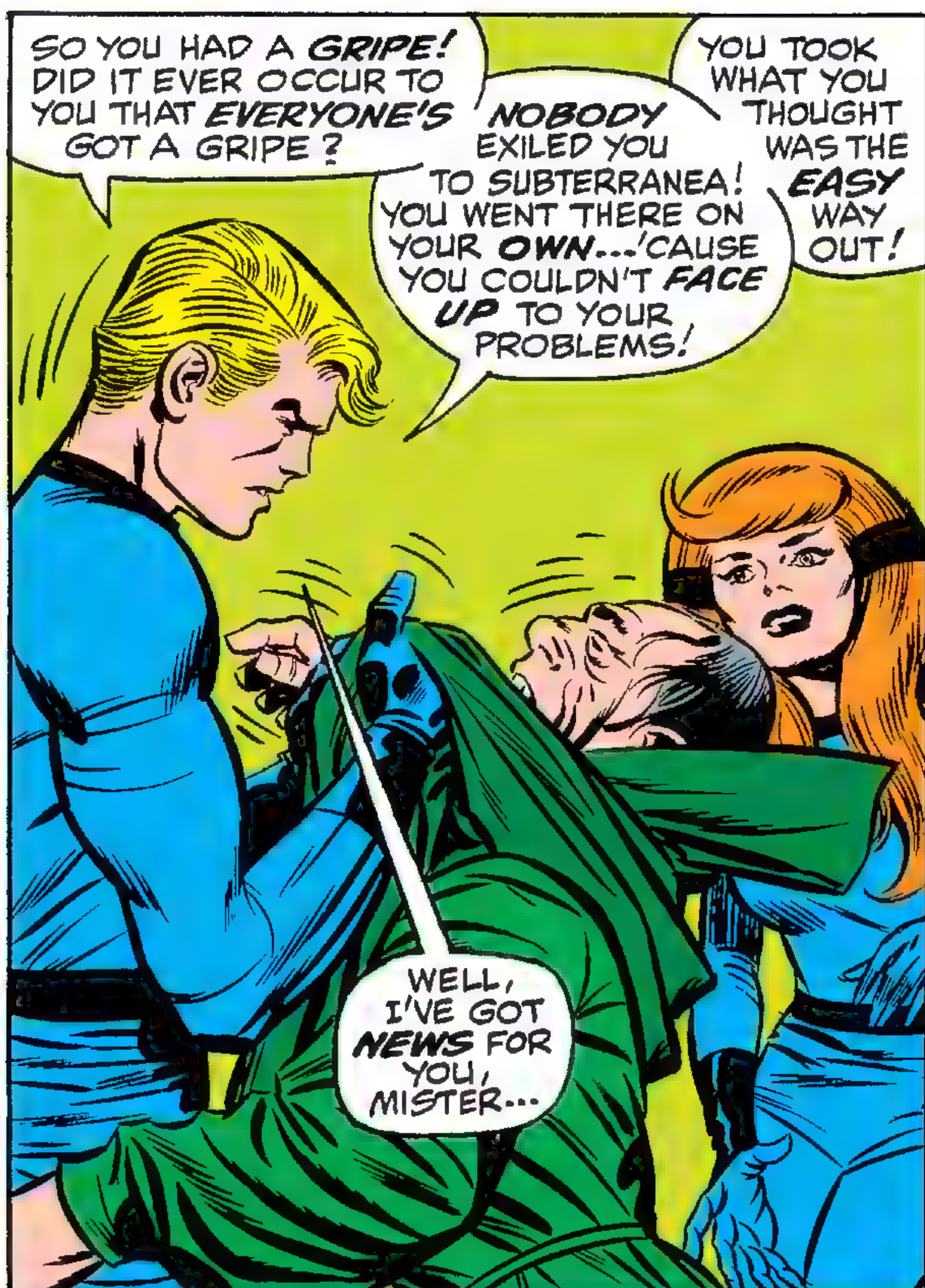


QUICKLY, JOHNNY! THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO **ENCIRCLE** HIM WITH A WALL OF **FLAME!**

JOHNNY IS **RIGHT, DEAR!**

THE MOLE MAN CAN'T **HARM** US ANY MORE!

FORGET IT, CRY! IT'S LIKE USING A **SLEDGE HAMMER** TO BELT A **MOSQUITO!**



SO YOU HAD A **GRIPE!** DID IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU THAT **EVERYONE'S** GOT A **GRIPE?**

NOBODY EXILED YOU TO SUBTERRANEA! YOU WENT THERE ON YOUR **OWN...** 'CAUSE YOU COULDN'T **FACE UP** TO YOUR PROBLEMS!

YOU TOOK WHAT YOU THOUGHT WAS THE **EASY** WAY OUT!

WELL, I'VE GOT **NEWS** FOR YOU, MISTER...

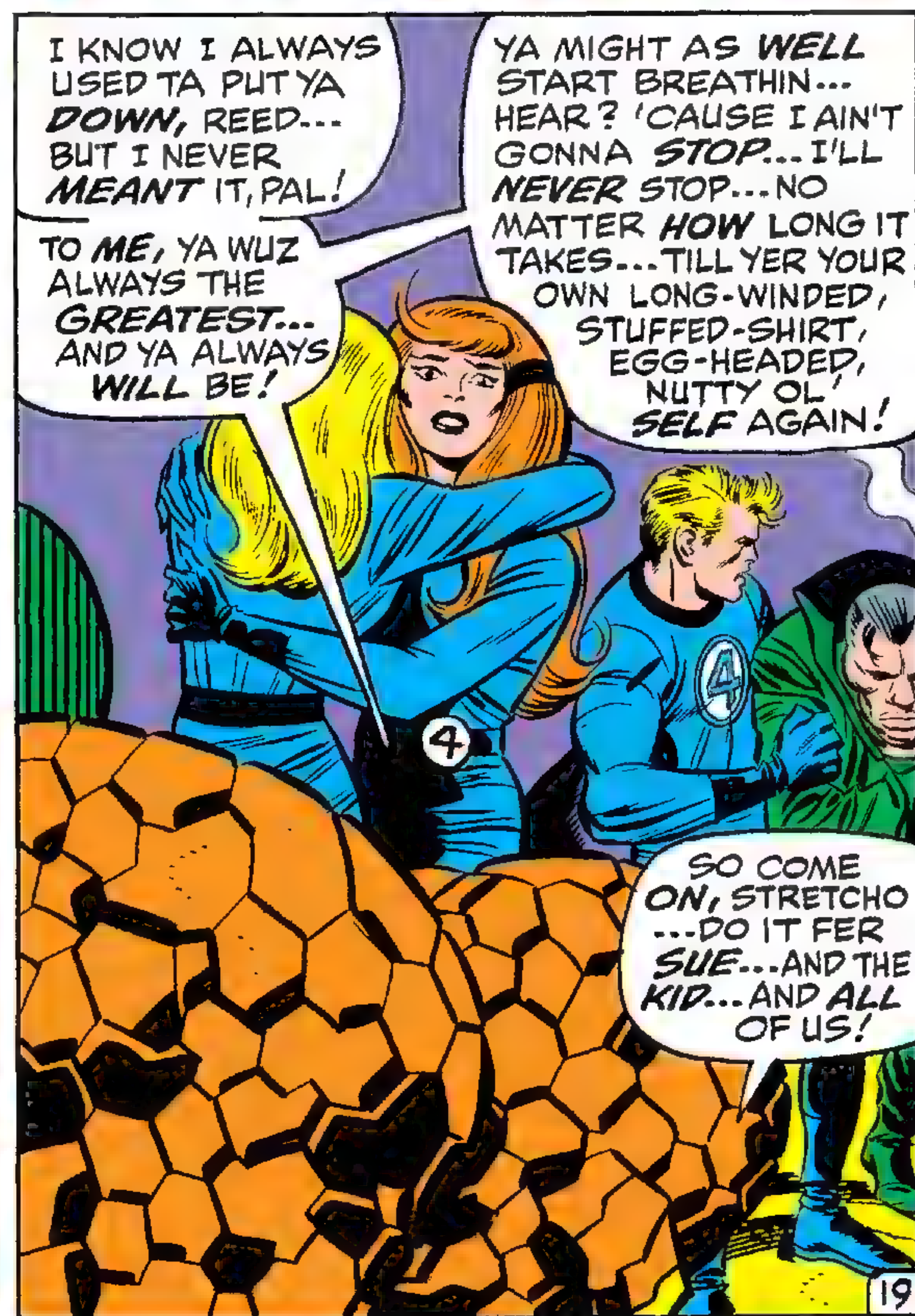
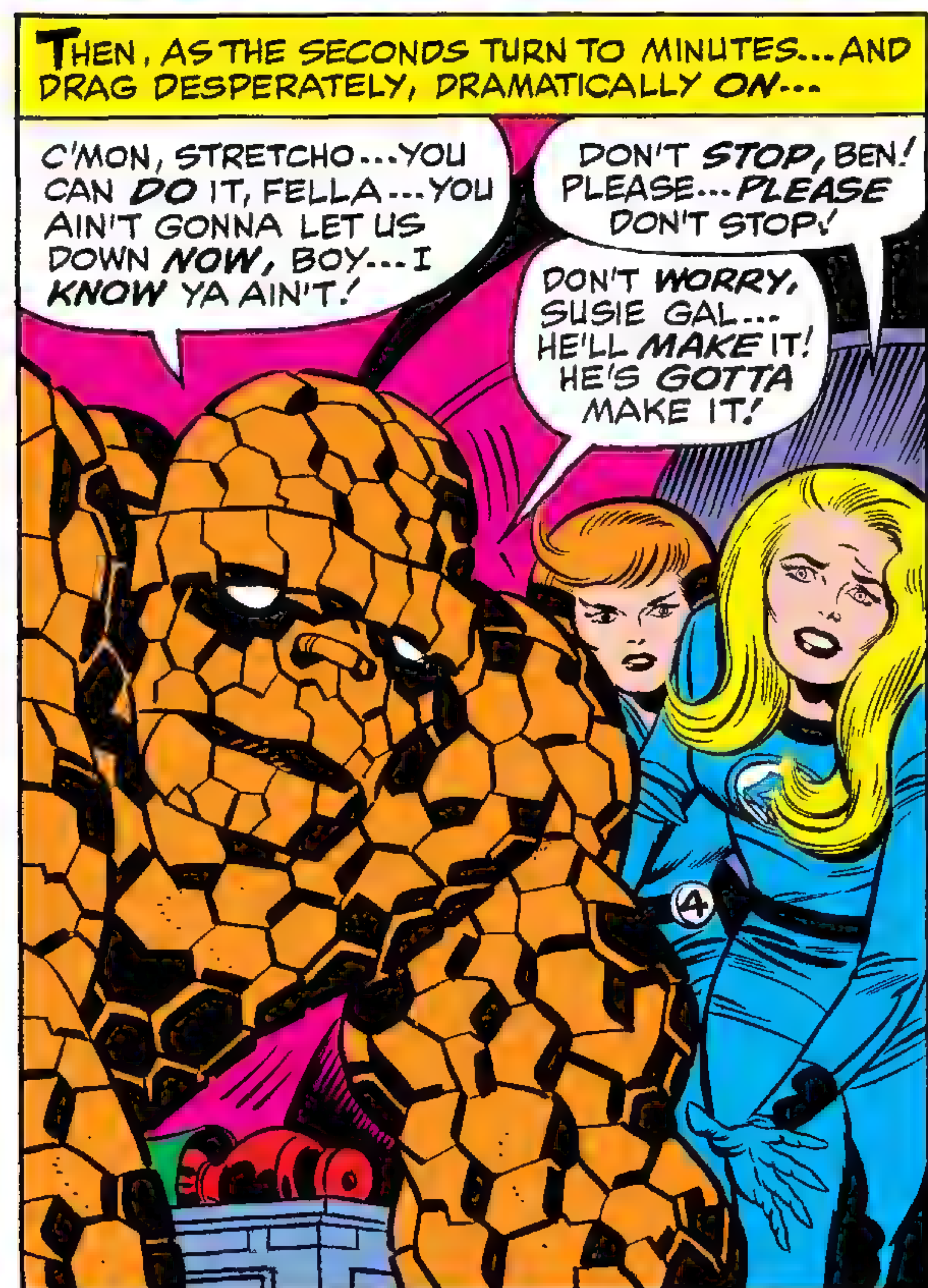


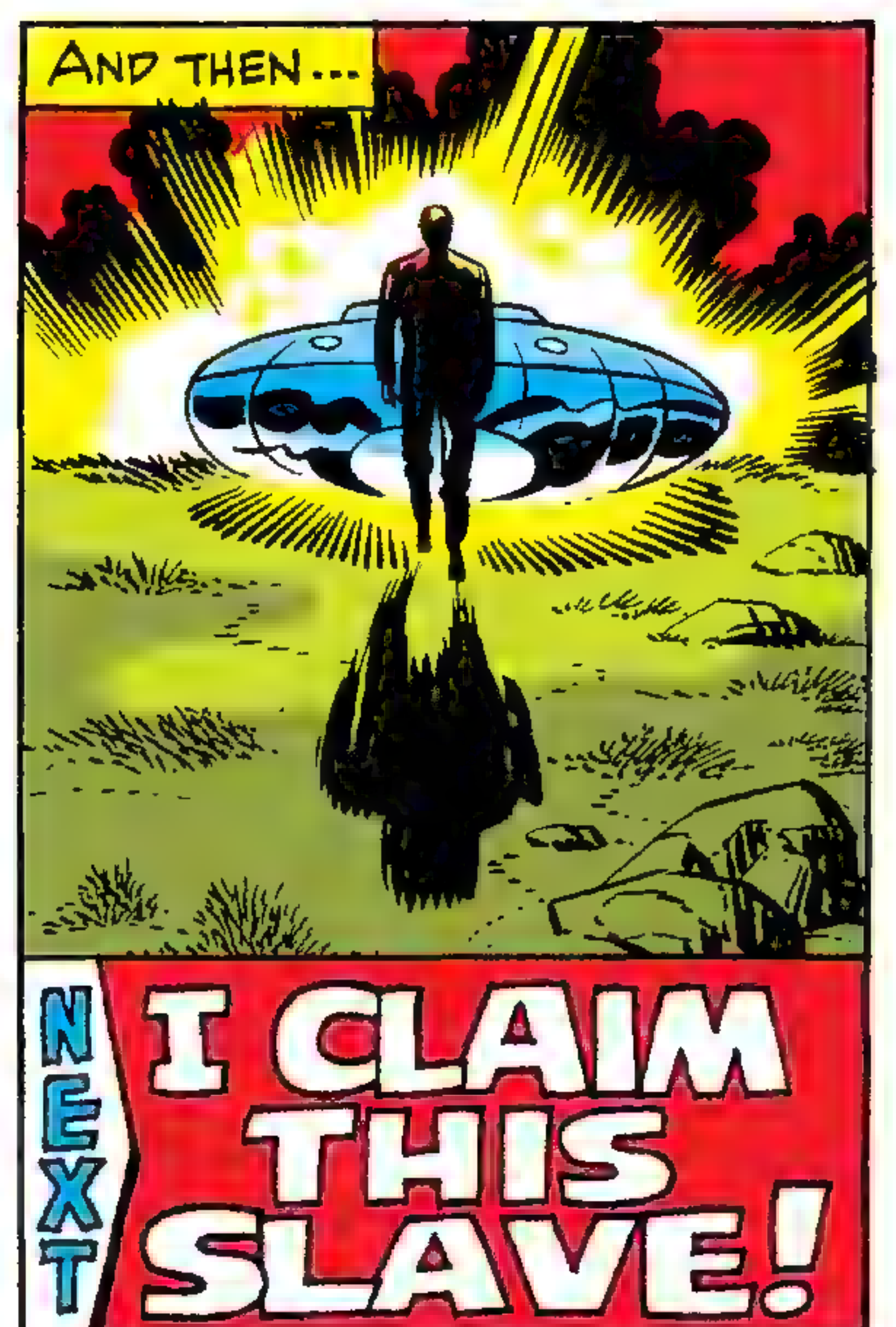
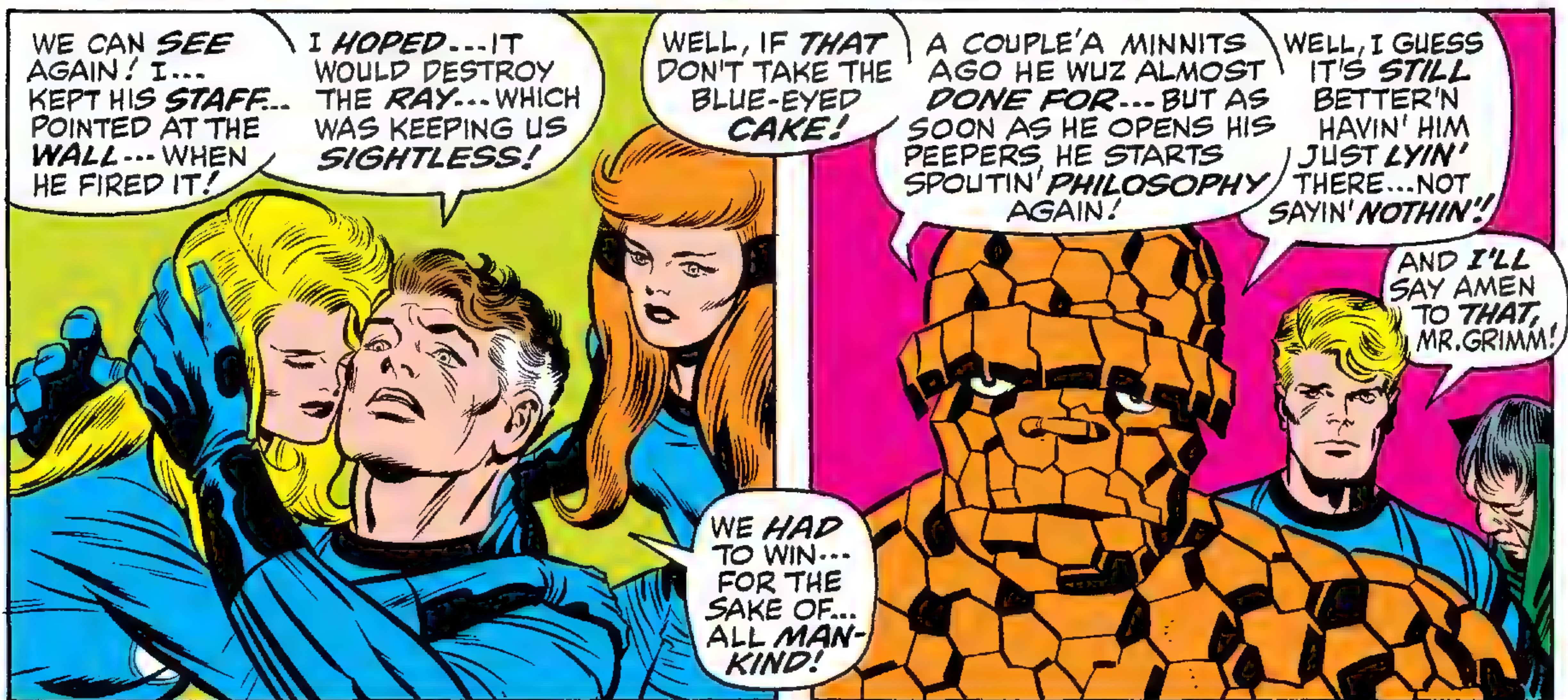
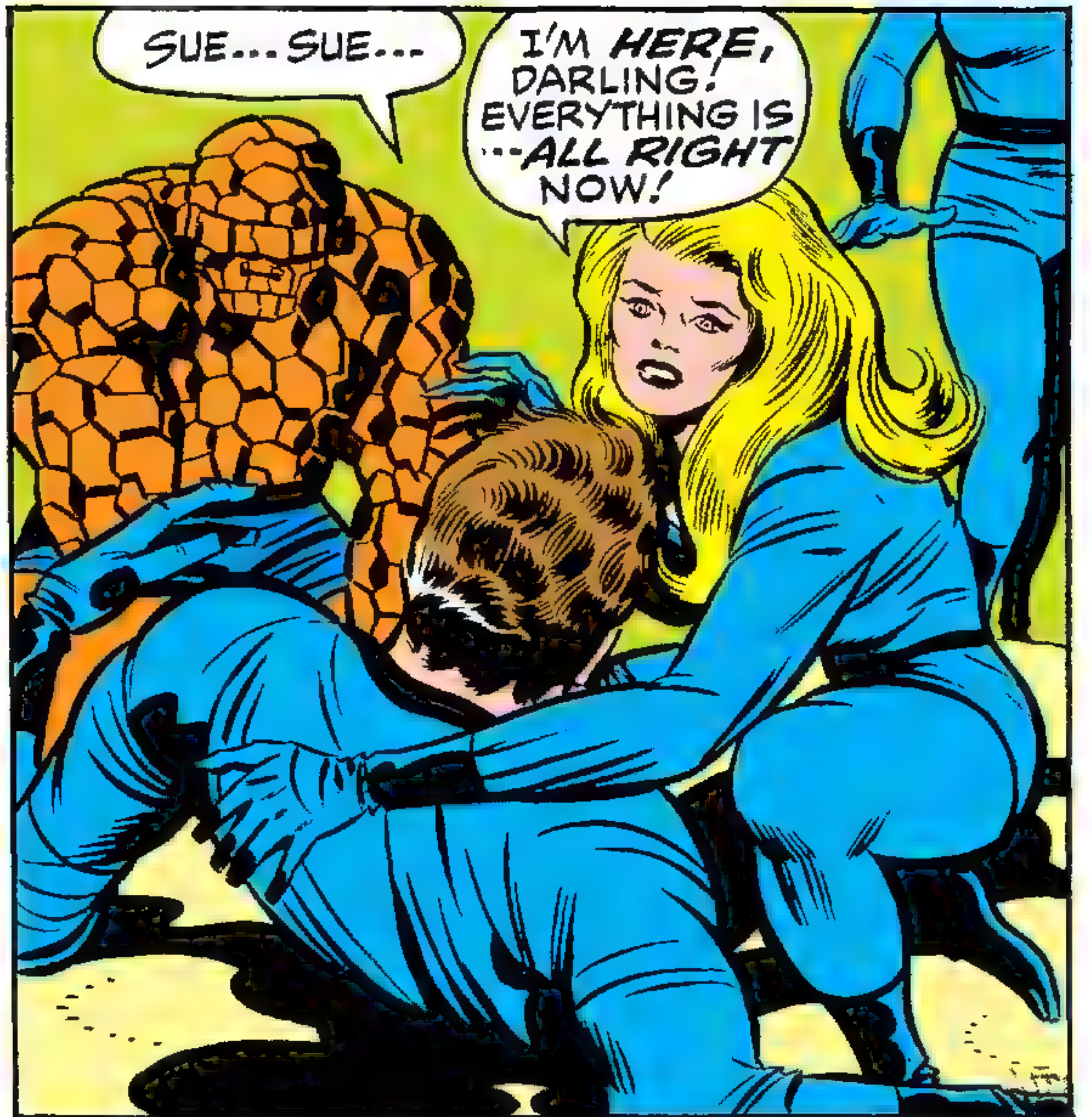
BEN GRIMM HAD A PROBLEM... A LOT **BIGGER** THAN YOURS! BUT HE **FACED** IT LIKE A **MAN!**

EVEN **ALICIA...** A GAL NOT AS **LUCKY** AS YOU... 'CAUSE SHE'S **TOTALLY** BLIND... MANAGED TO TAKE ON THE WORLD AND COME UP A **WINNER!**

BUT YOU LIVE ON **HATE...** ON **BLAMING** OTHERS FOR WHAT-**EVER'S** **BUGGING** YOU!

IF **PITY'S** YOUR BAG... YOU WON'T FIND IT **HERE!**





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THE SKRULL
TAKES A
SLAVE!

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP



THE FABULOUS **FF** MUST FACE THEIR MOST IMPOSSIBLE CHALLENGE, WHEN...

THE SKRULL TAKES A SLAVE!

LAST
ISSUE WE SAW
OUR HARD-PRESSED
HEROES RISK LIFE
AND LIMB TO SAVE
THE EARTH FROM THE
MOLE MAN'S PLANNED
INVASION!

NOW, THEIR BATTLE WON,
THE WEARY WARRIORS
TAKE A *BREAK* WITHIN
THE *STRANGEST*
HOUSE UPON THIS
PLANET...

IT'S STILL HARD TO BELIEVE
THAT *MOLE MAN* ALONE
COULD HAVE GIVEN US SUCH
A *BATTLE*!

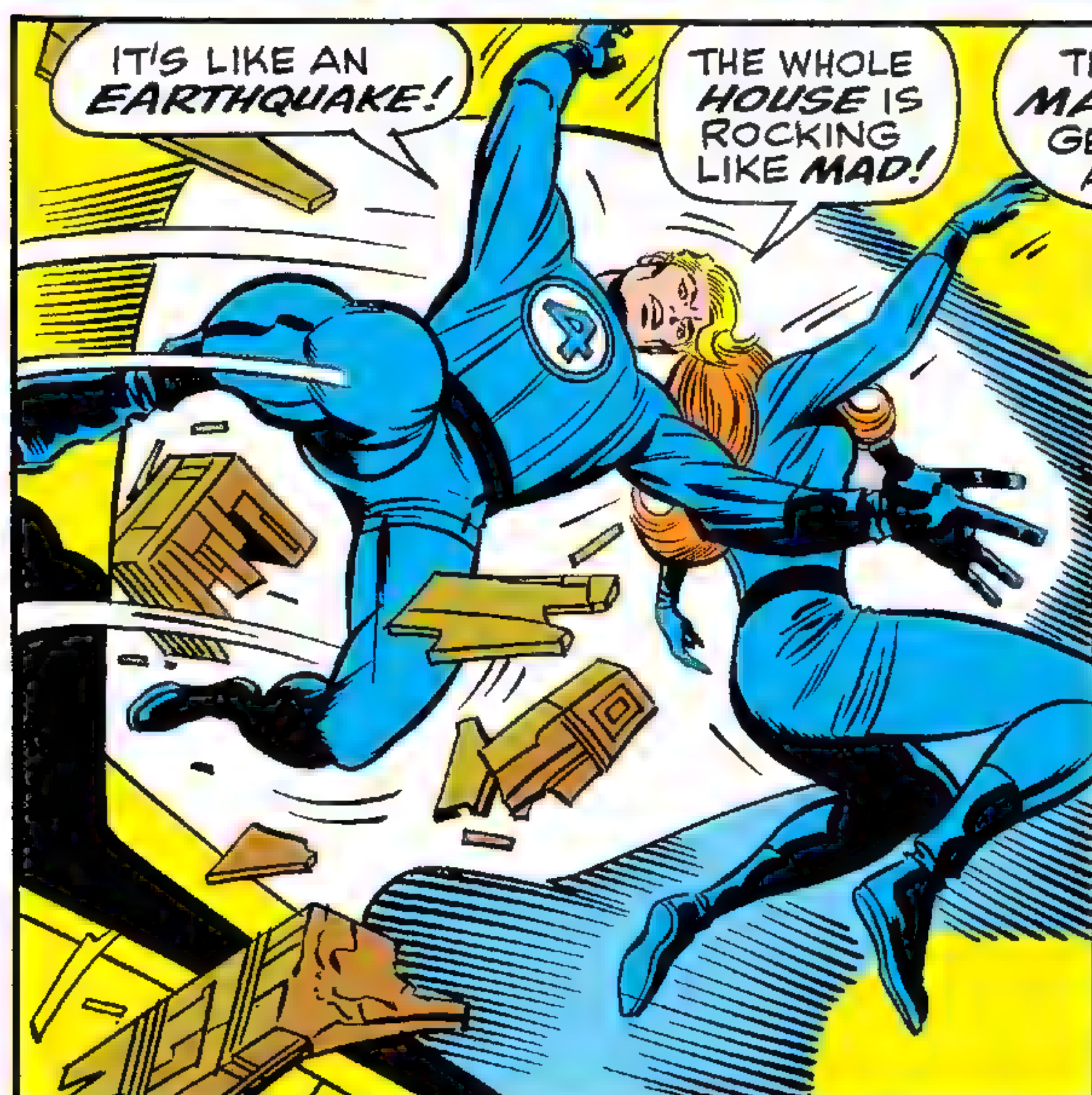
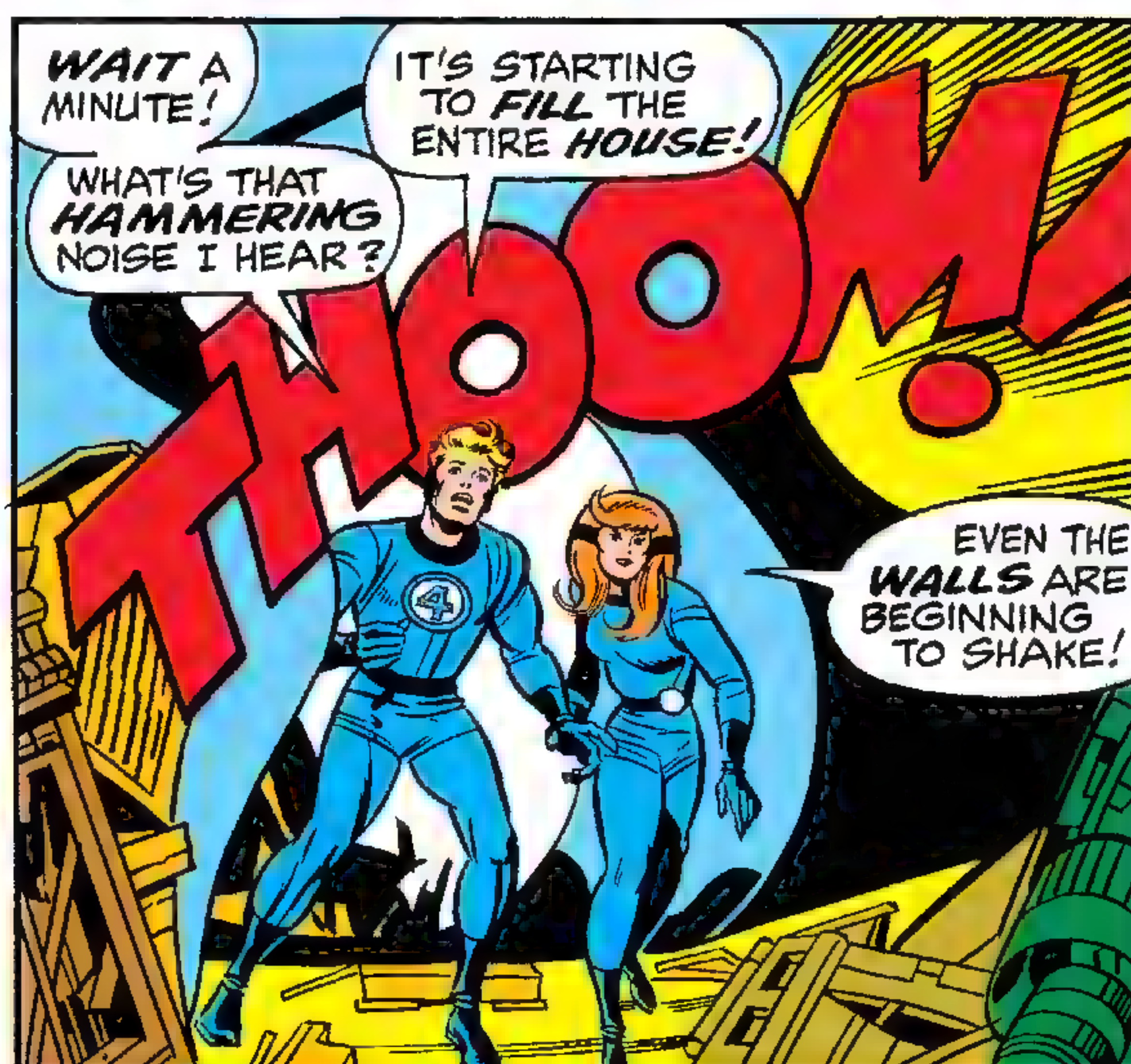
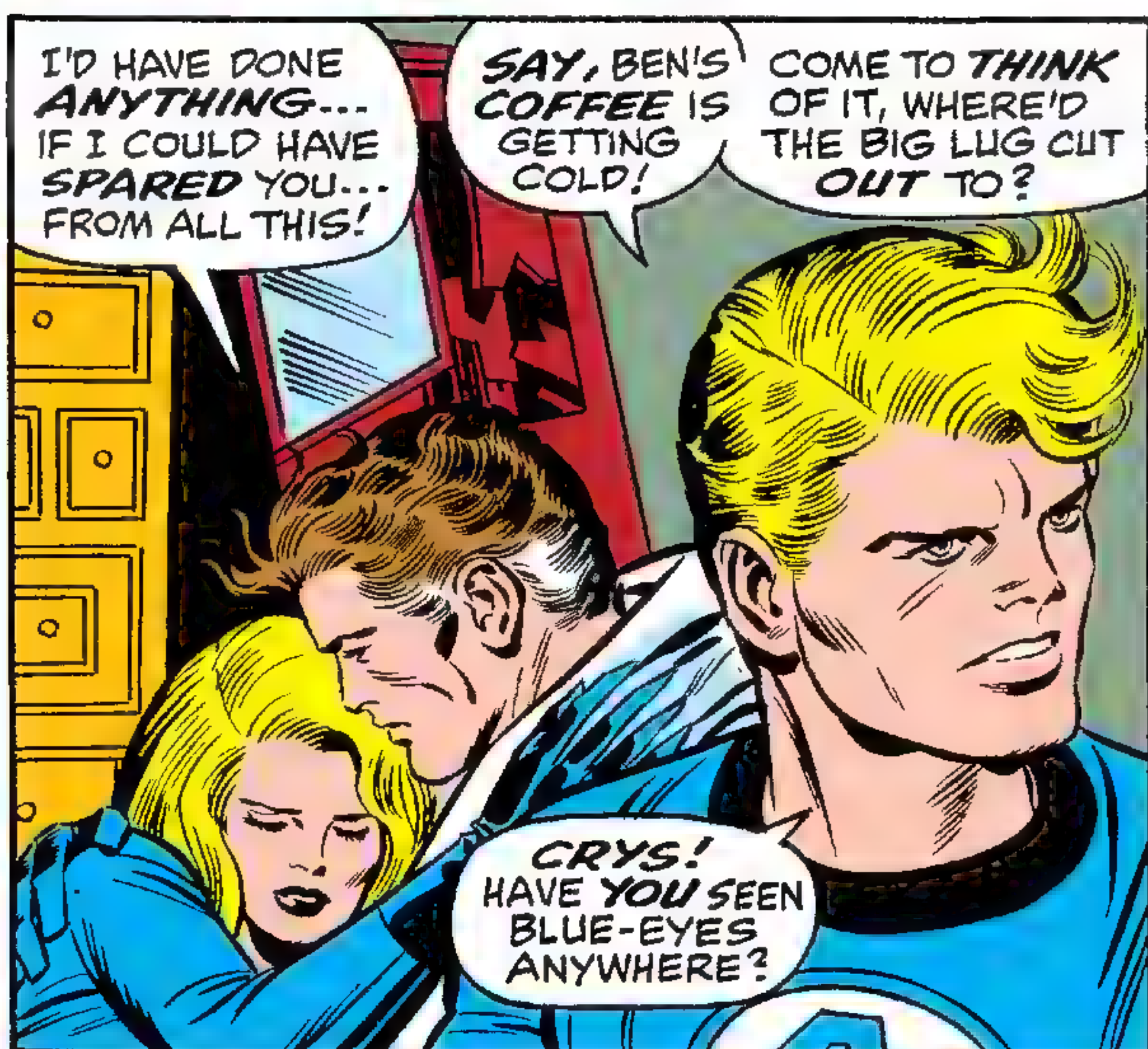
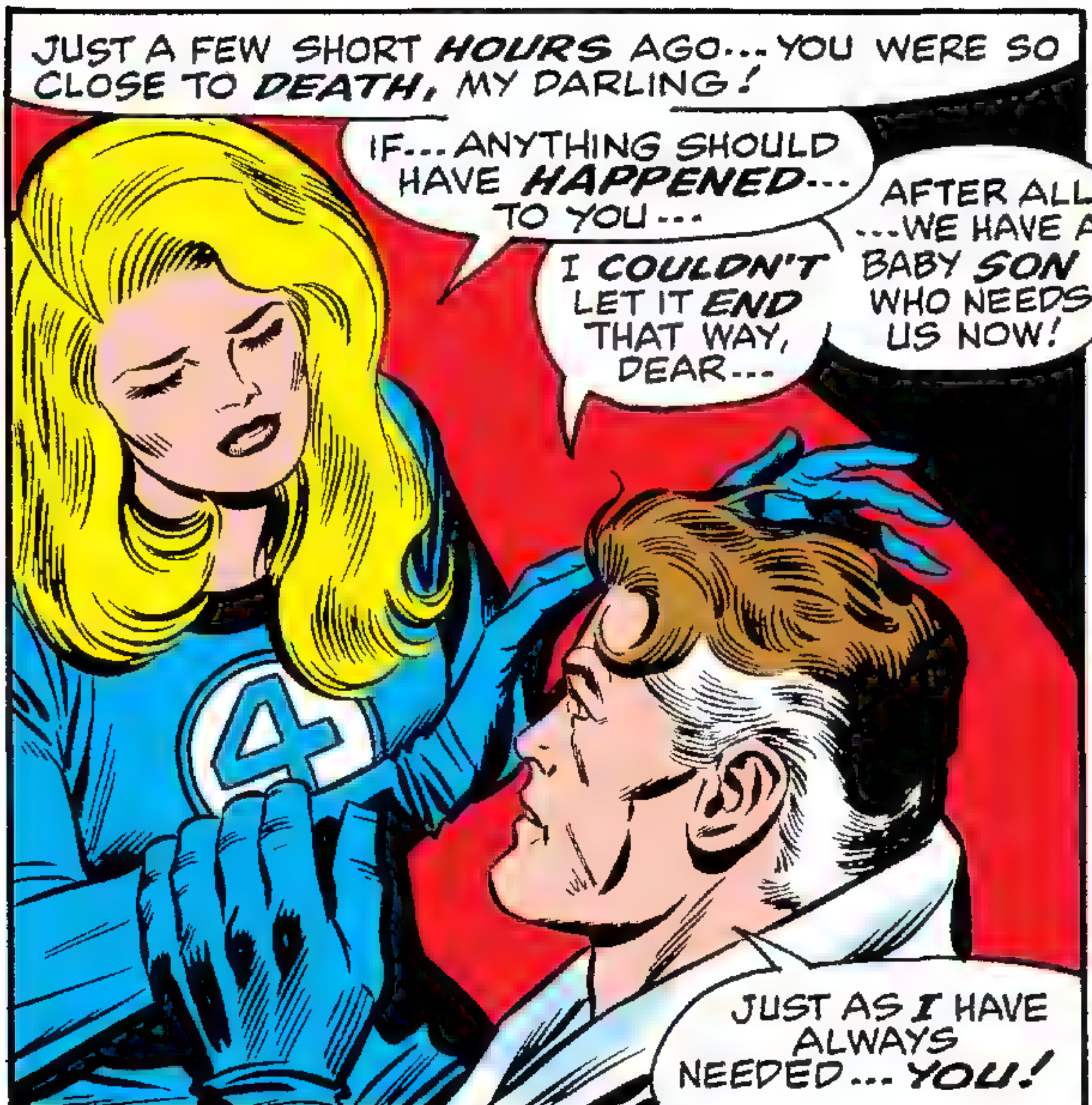
BUT ALL THAT
MATTERS IS
...HE *LOST*!

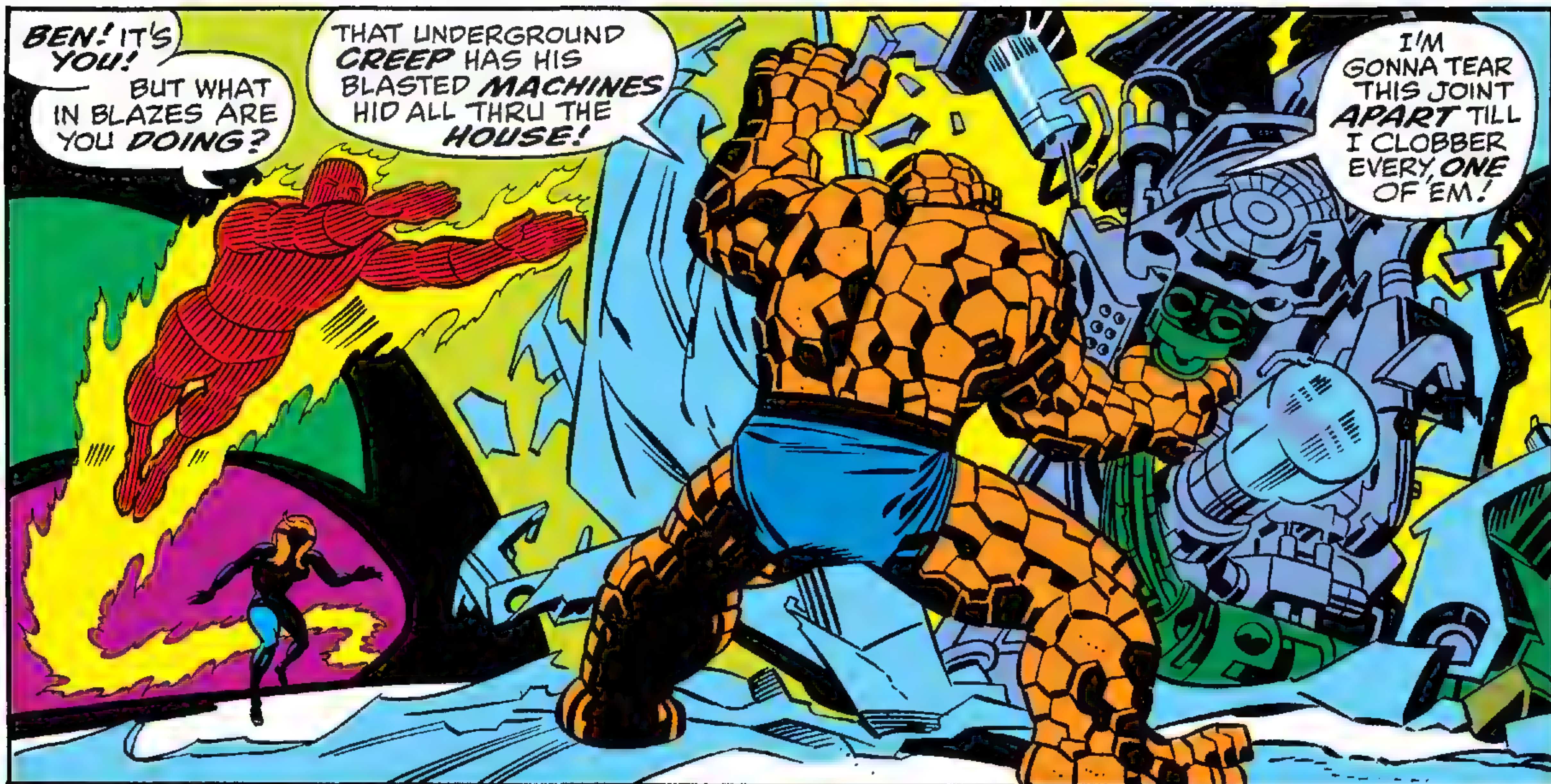
PERHAPS IT
ONLY *SEEMS*
THAT WAY,
JOHNNY!

I'LL FEEL *SAFER*
WHEN WE'VE *LEFT*
THIS *DEADLY*
PLACE!

PRODUCED BY:
STAN (THE MAN) LEE
and
JACK (KING) KIRBY

EMBELLISHMENT:
JOLTIN' JOE SINNOTT
LETTERING:
SWINGIN' SAMMY ROSEN



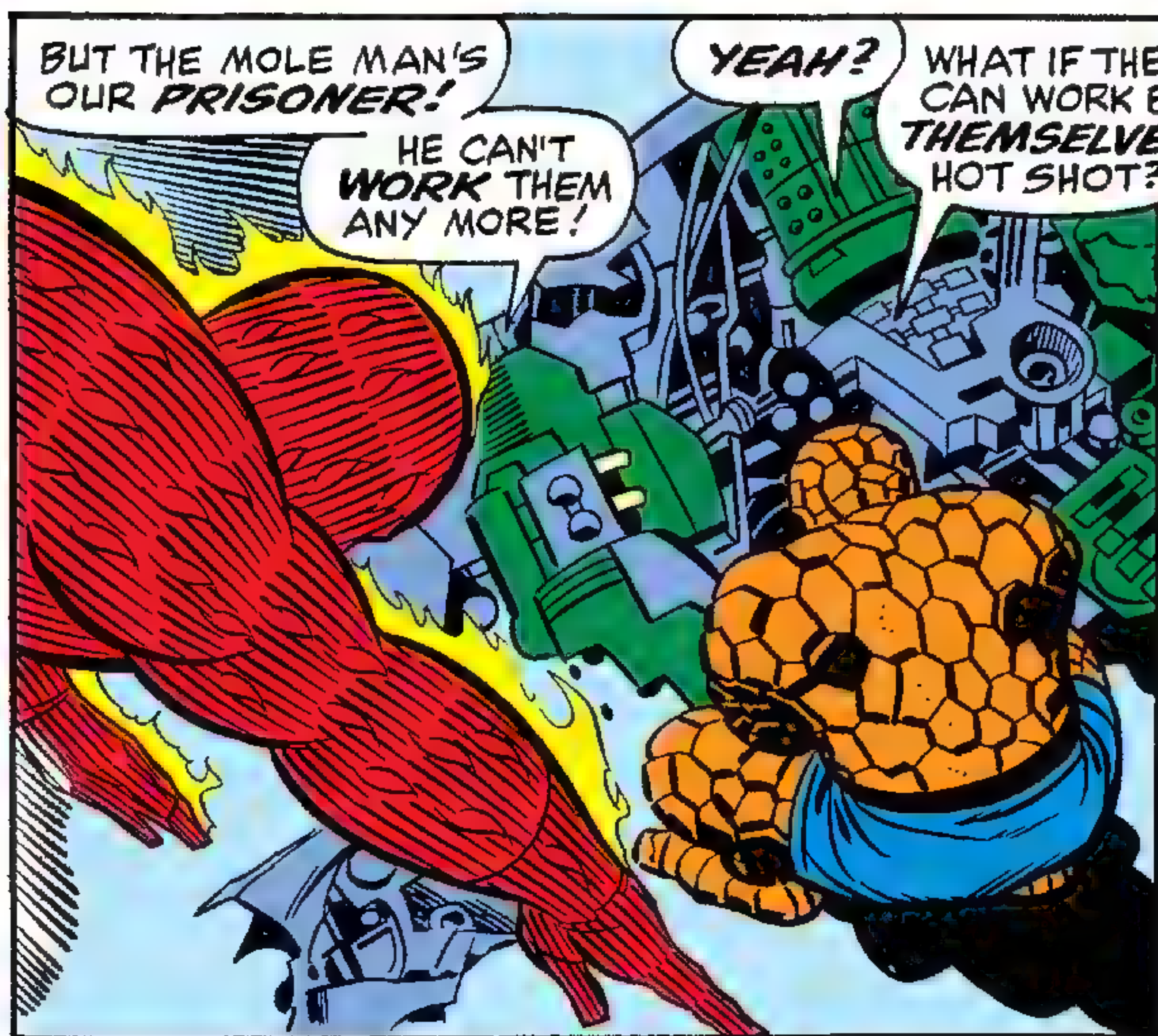


BEN! IT'S YOU!

BUT WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU DOING?

THAT UNDERGROUND CREEP HAS HIS BLASTED MACHINES HID ALL THRU THE HOUSE!

I'M GONNA TEAR THIS JOINT APART TILL I CLOBBER EVERY ONE OF 'EM!

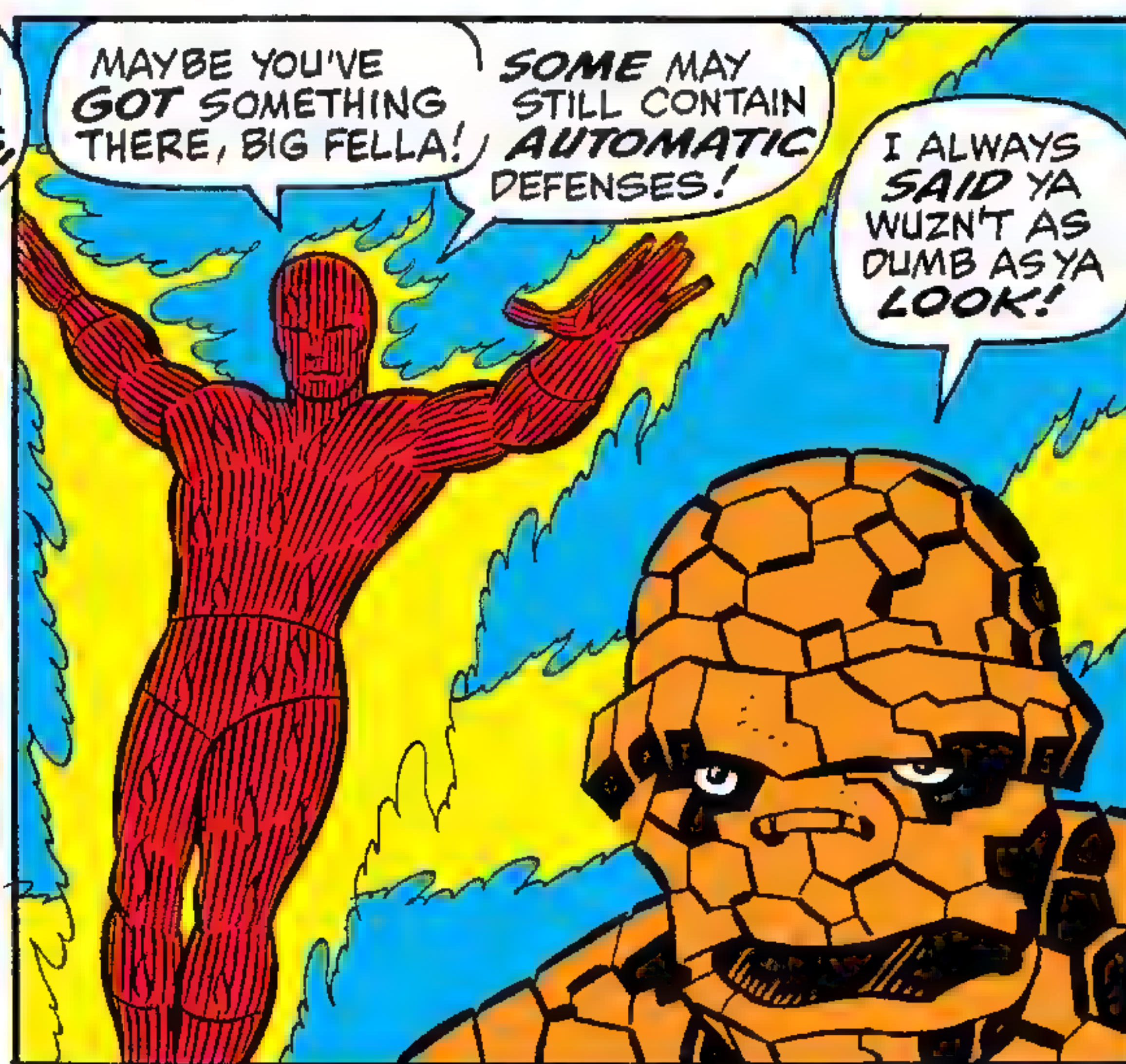


BUT THE MOLE MAN'S OUR PRISONER!

HE CAN'T WORK THEM ANY MORE!

YEAH?

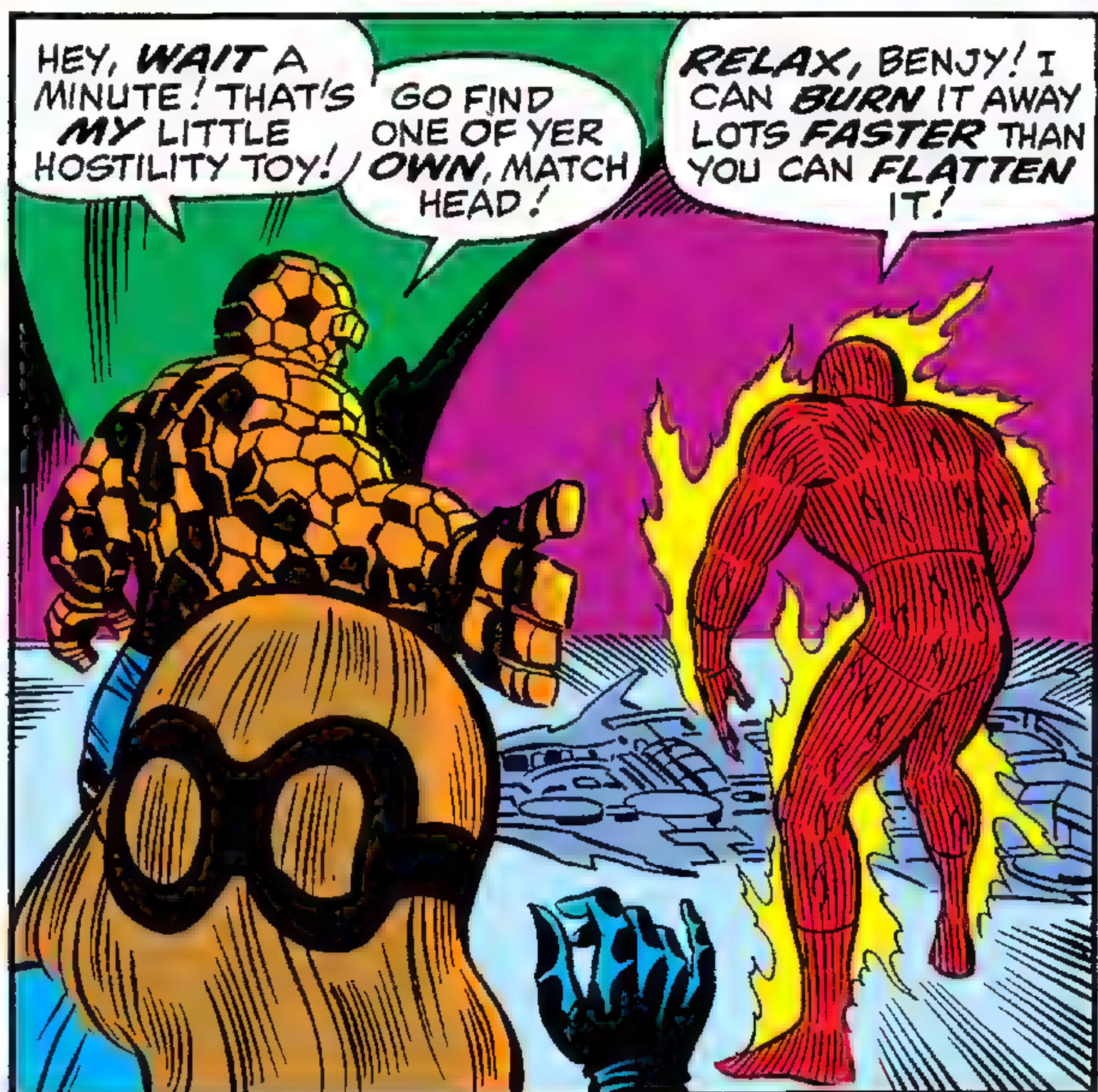
WHAT IF THEY CAN WORK BY THEMSELVES, HOT SHOT?



MAYBE YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING THERE, BIG FELLA!

SOME MAY STILL CONTAIN AUTOMATIC DEFENSES!

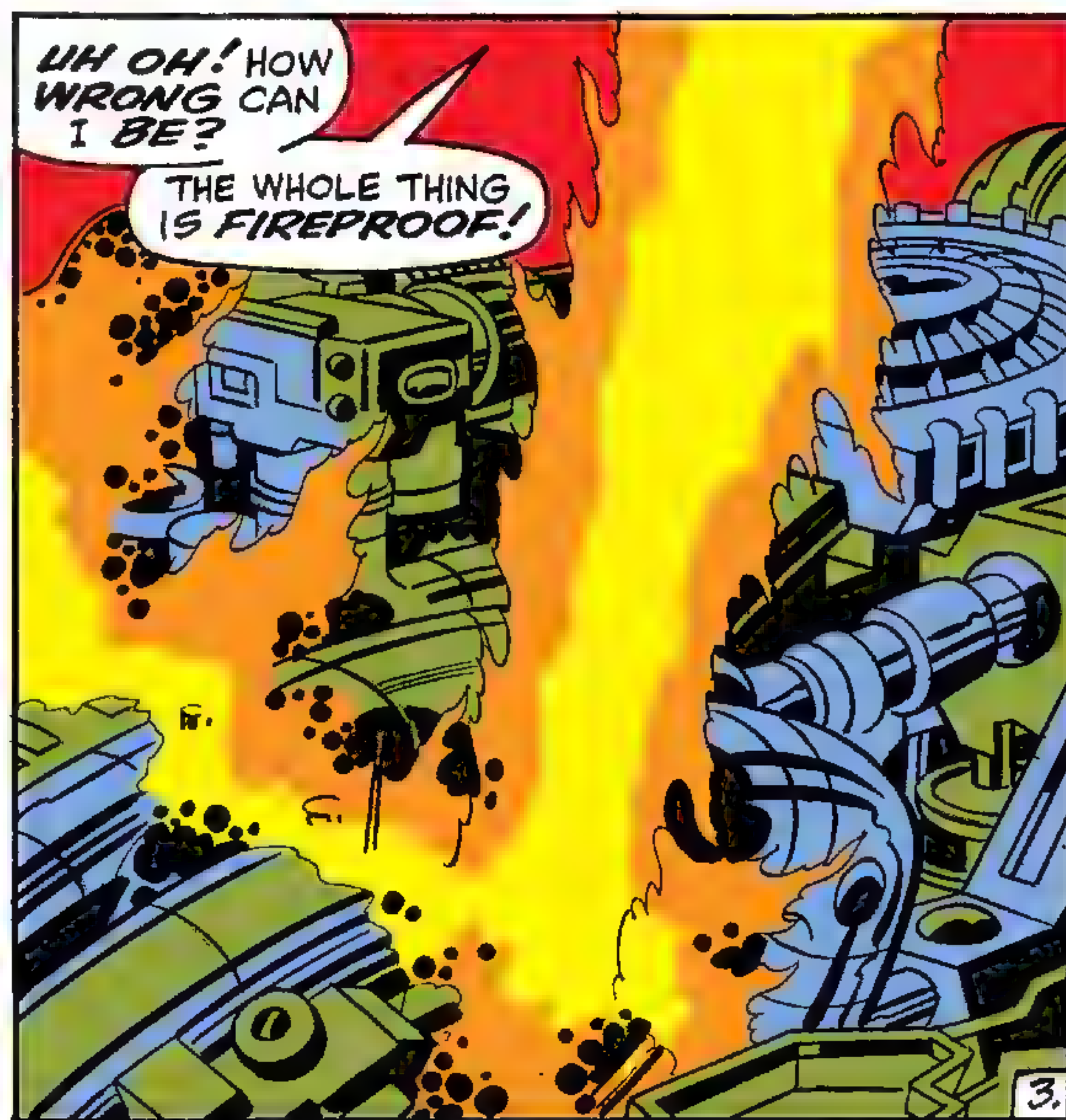
I ALWAYS SAID YA WUZNT AS DUMB AS YA LOOK!



HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! THAT'S MY LITTLE HOSTILITY TOY!

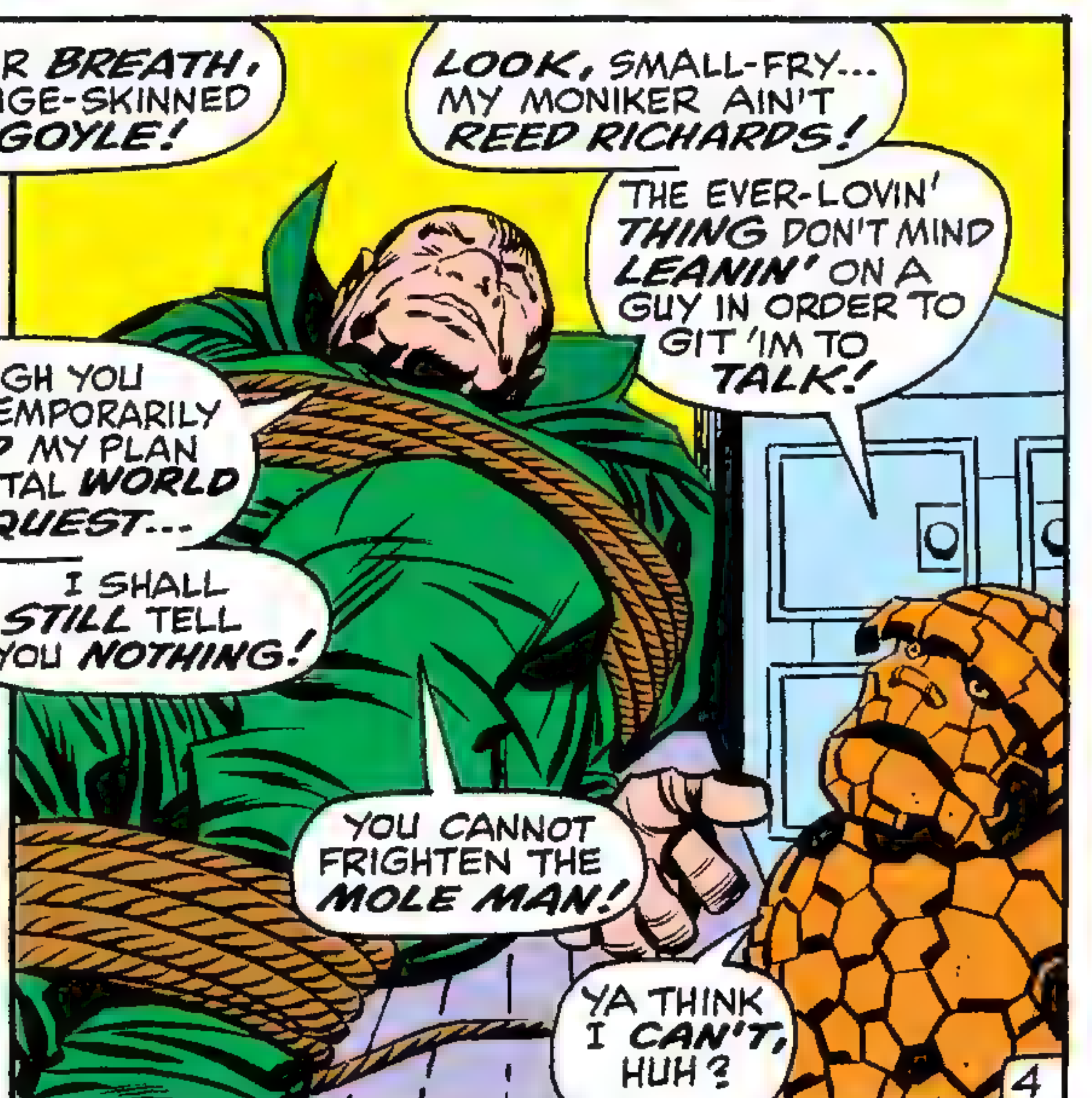
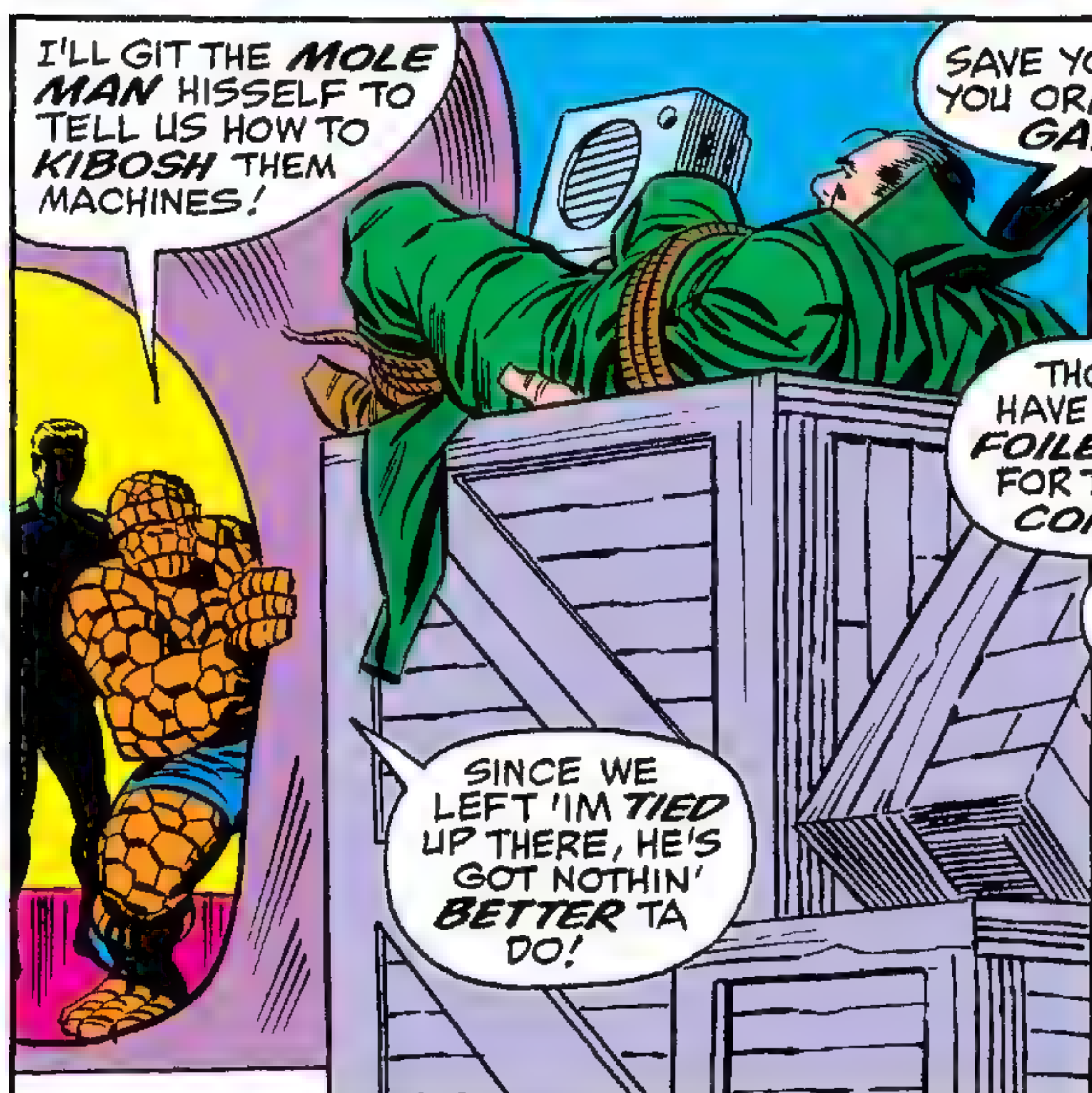
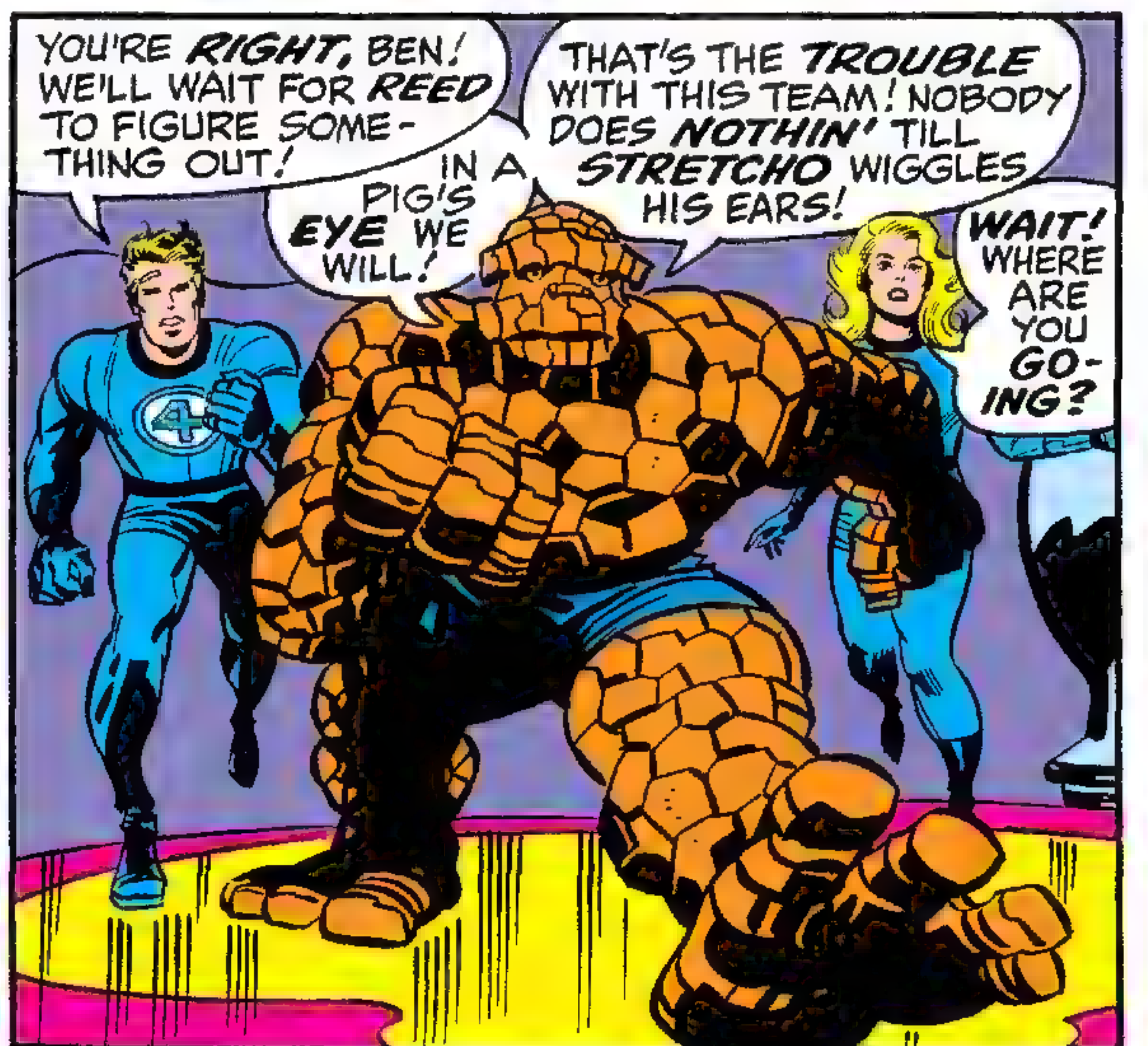
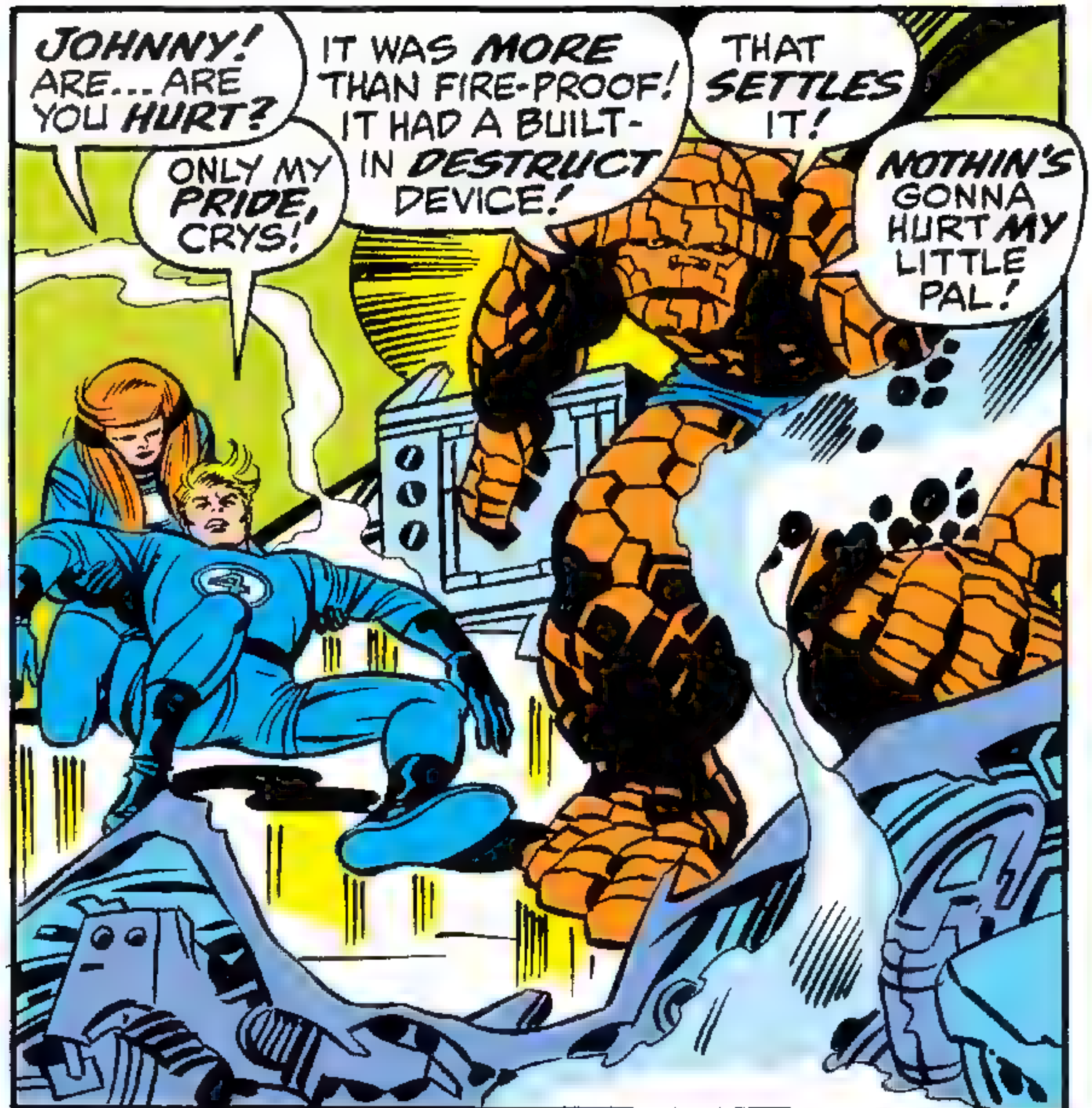
GO FIND ONE OF YER OWN, MATCH HEAD!

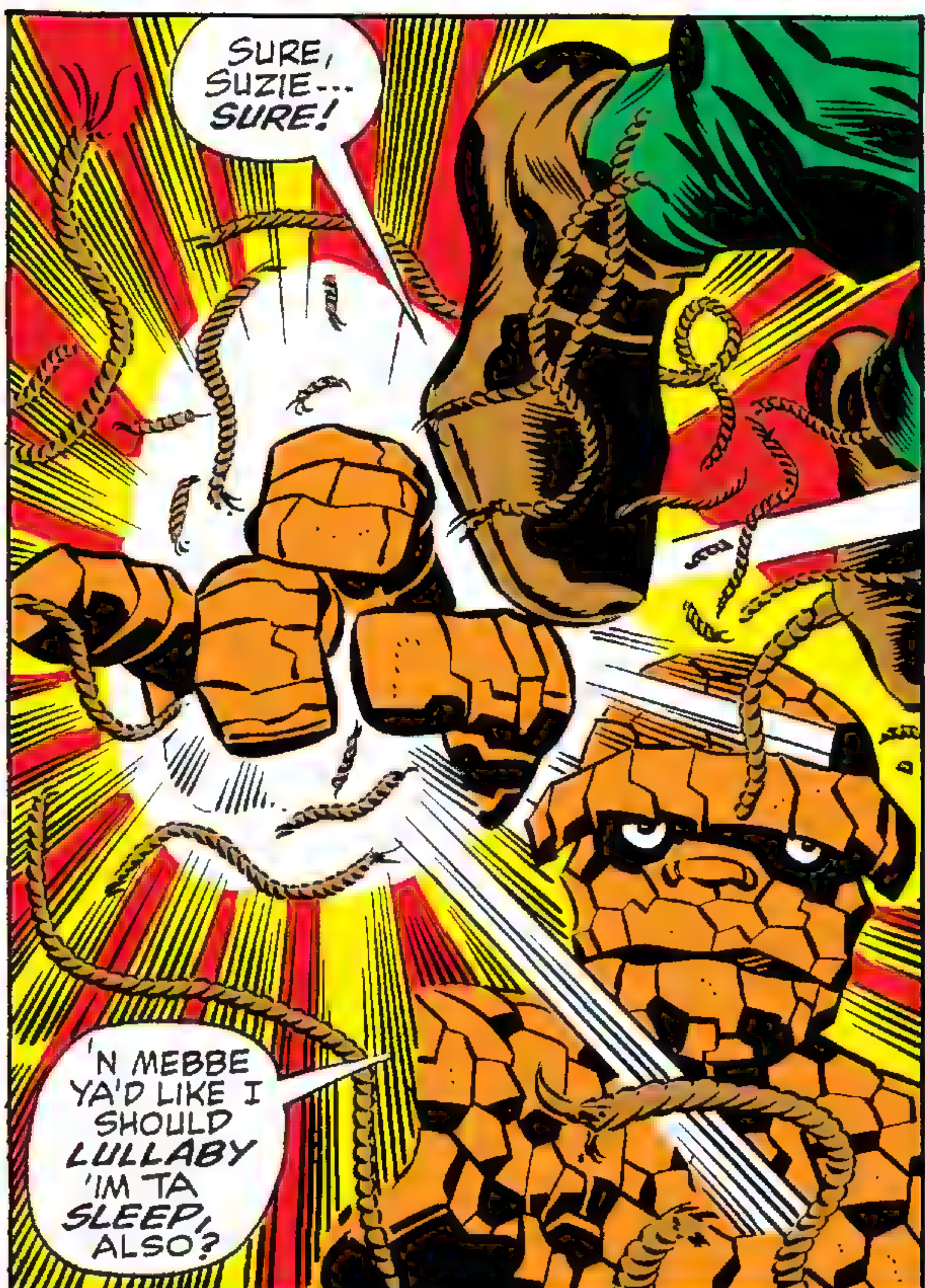
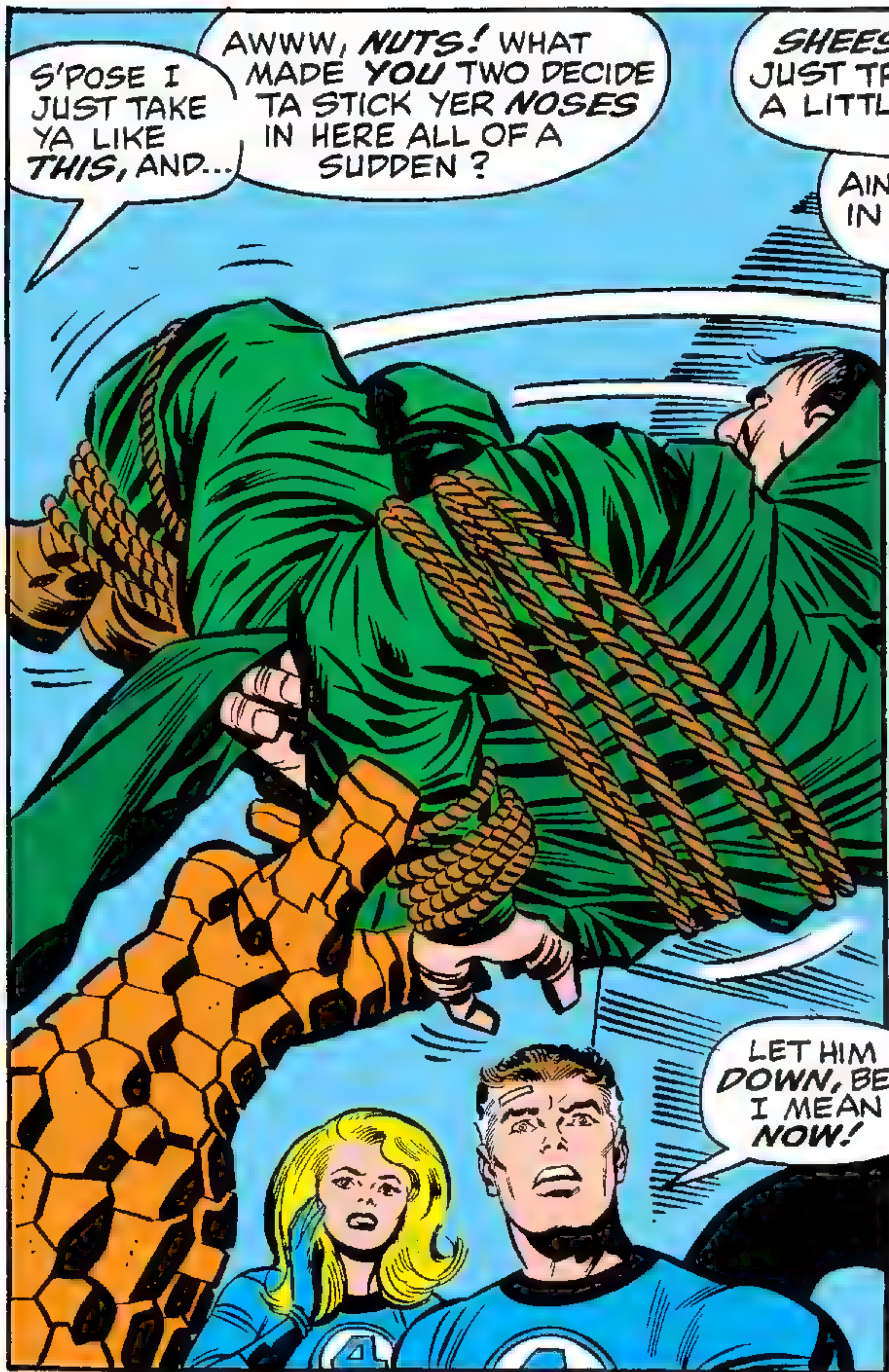
RELAX, BENJY! I CAN BURN IT AWAY LOTS FASTER THAN YOU CAN FLATTEN IT!

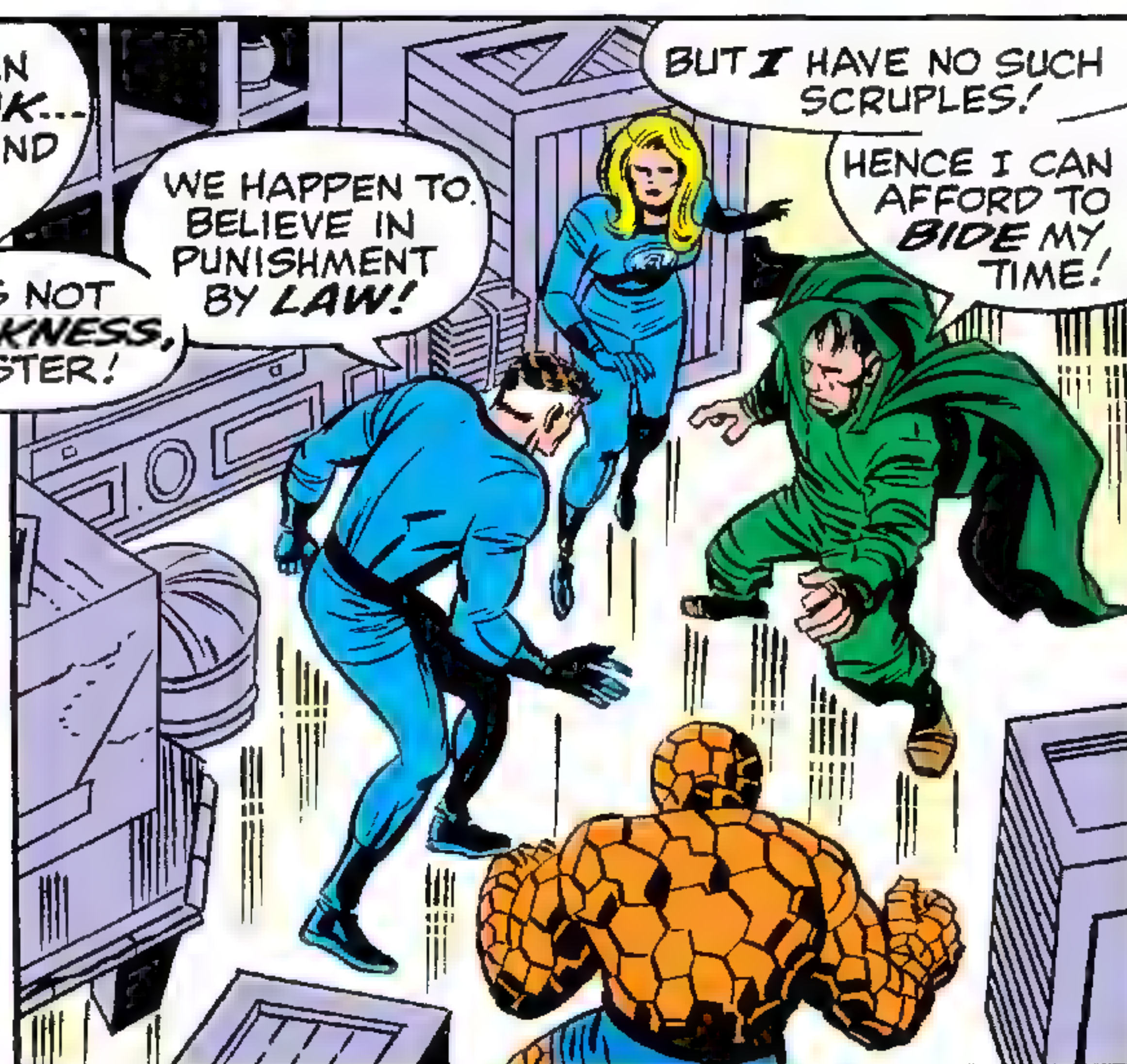
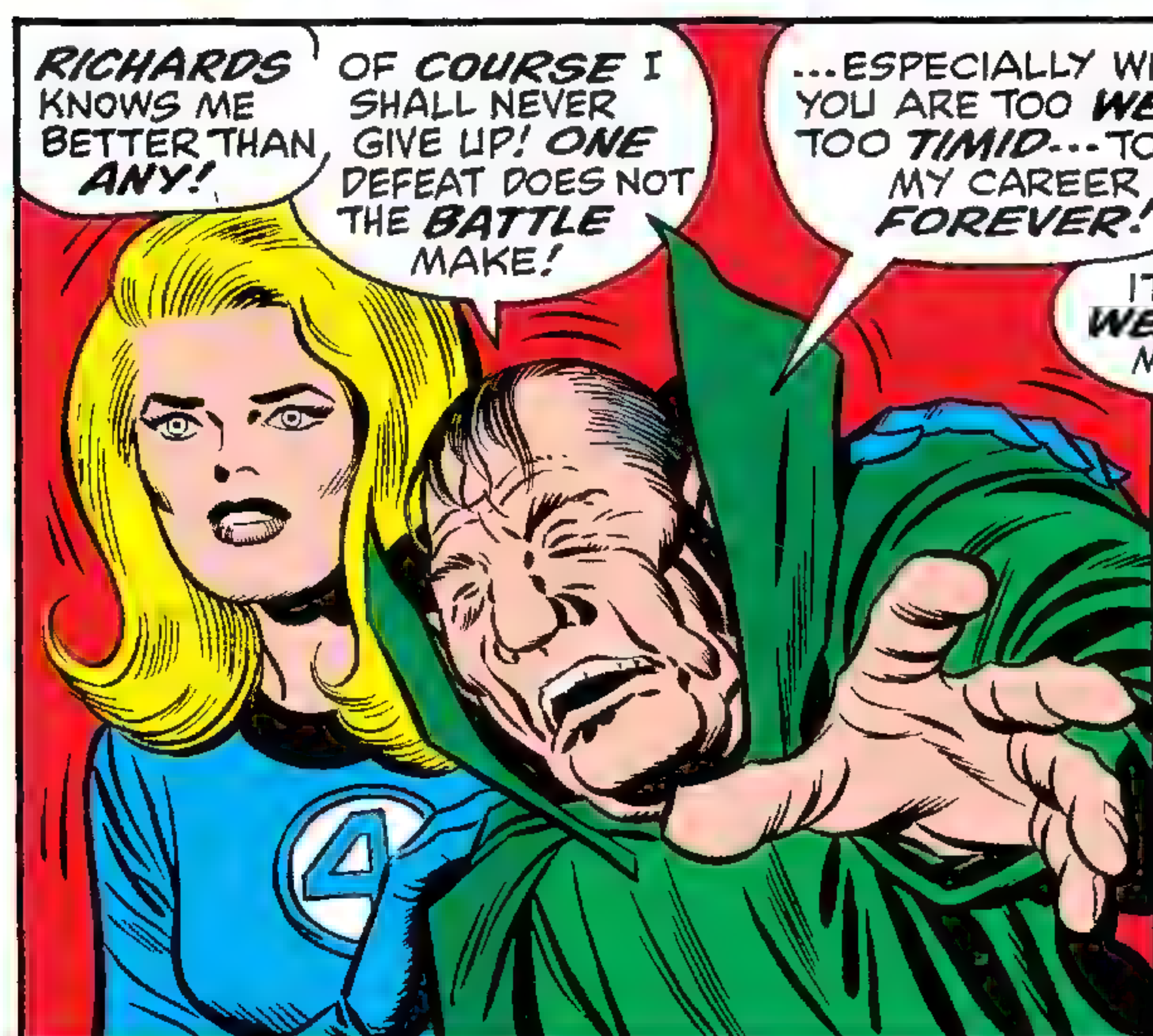
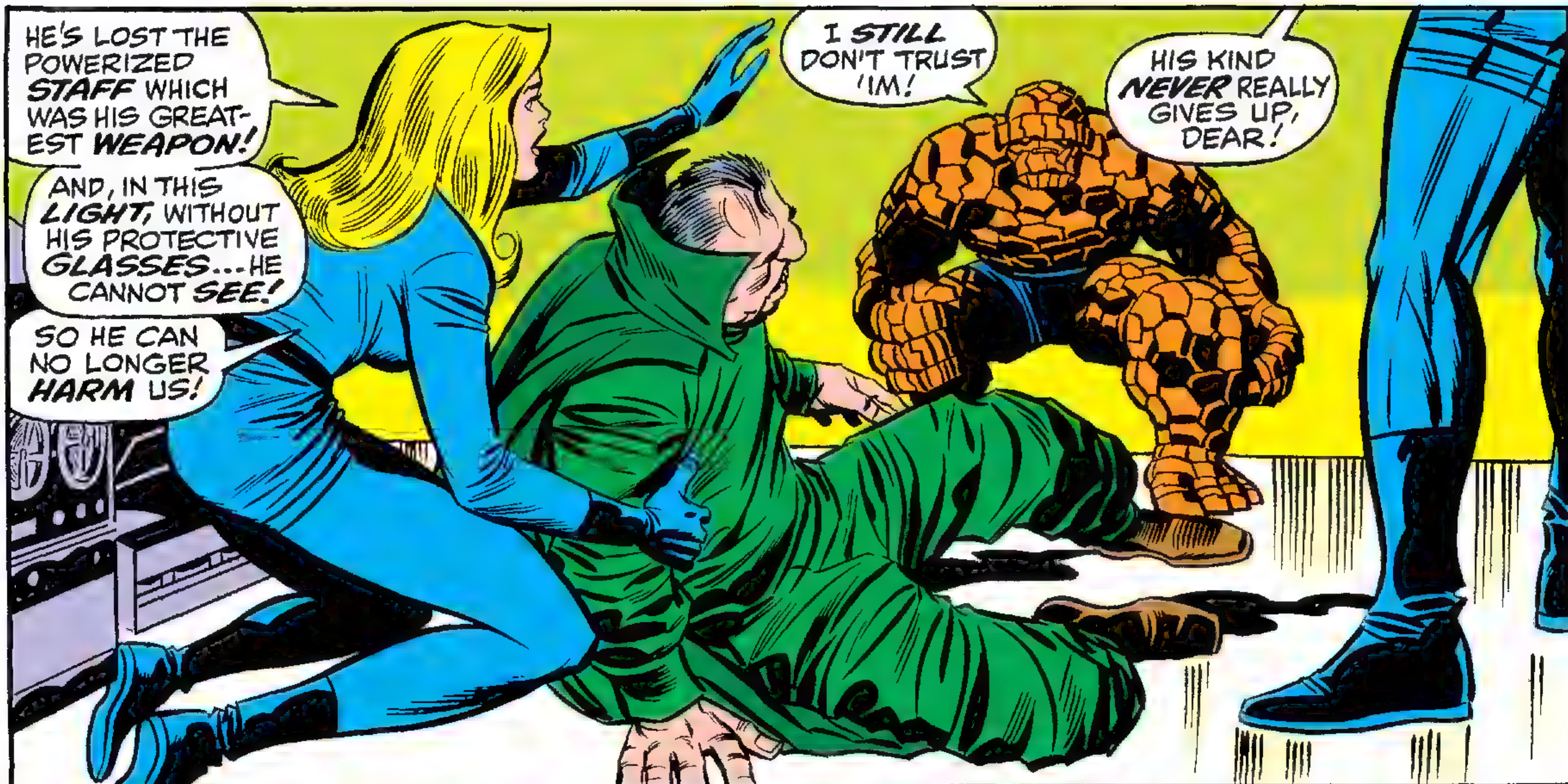


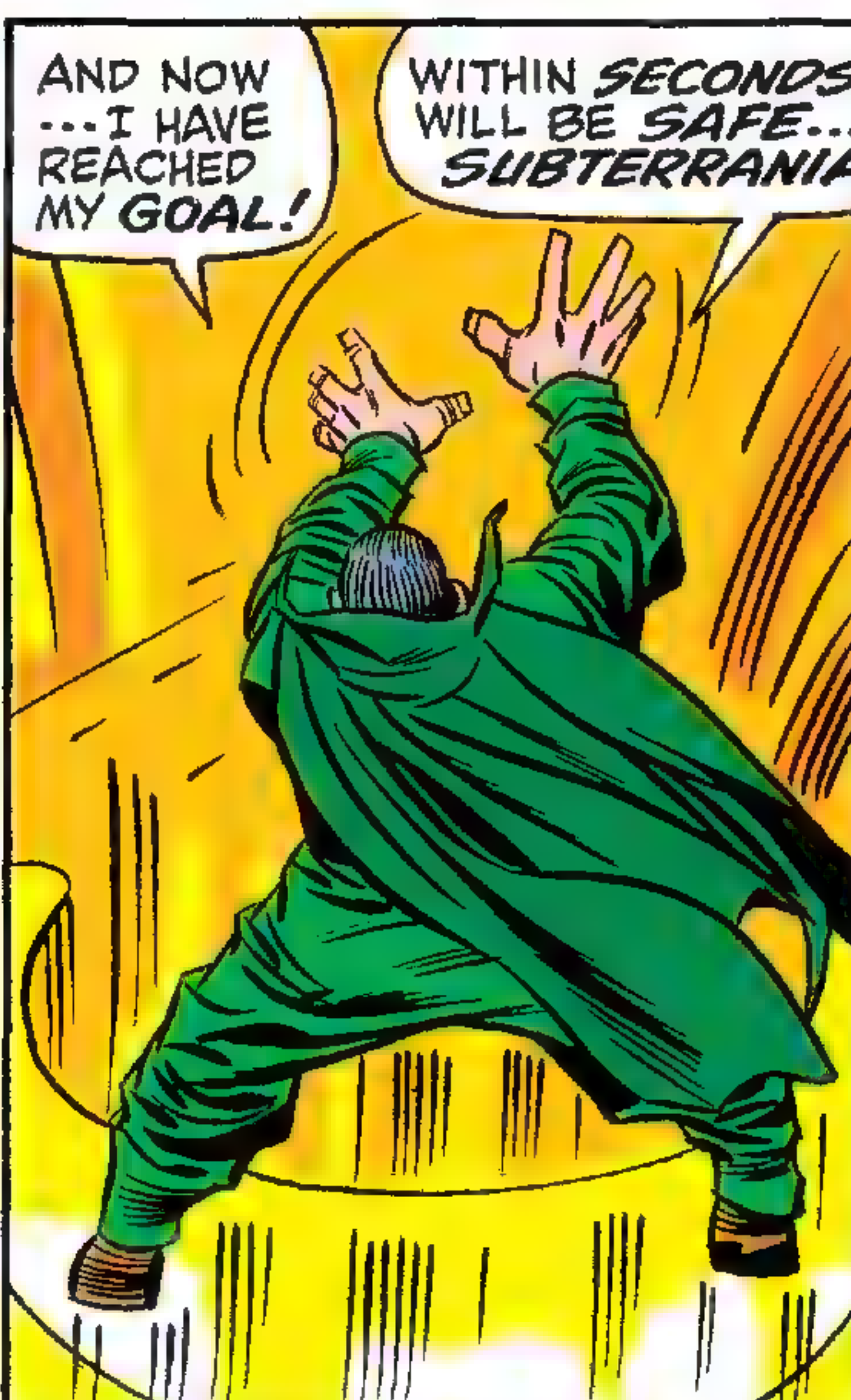
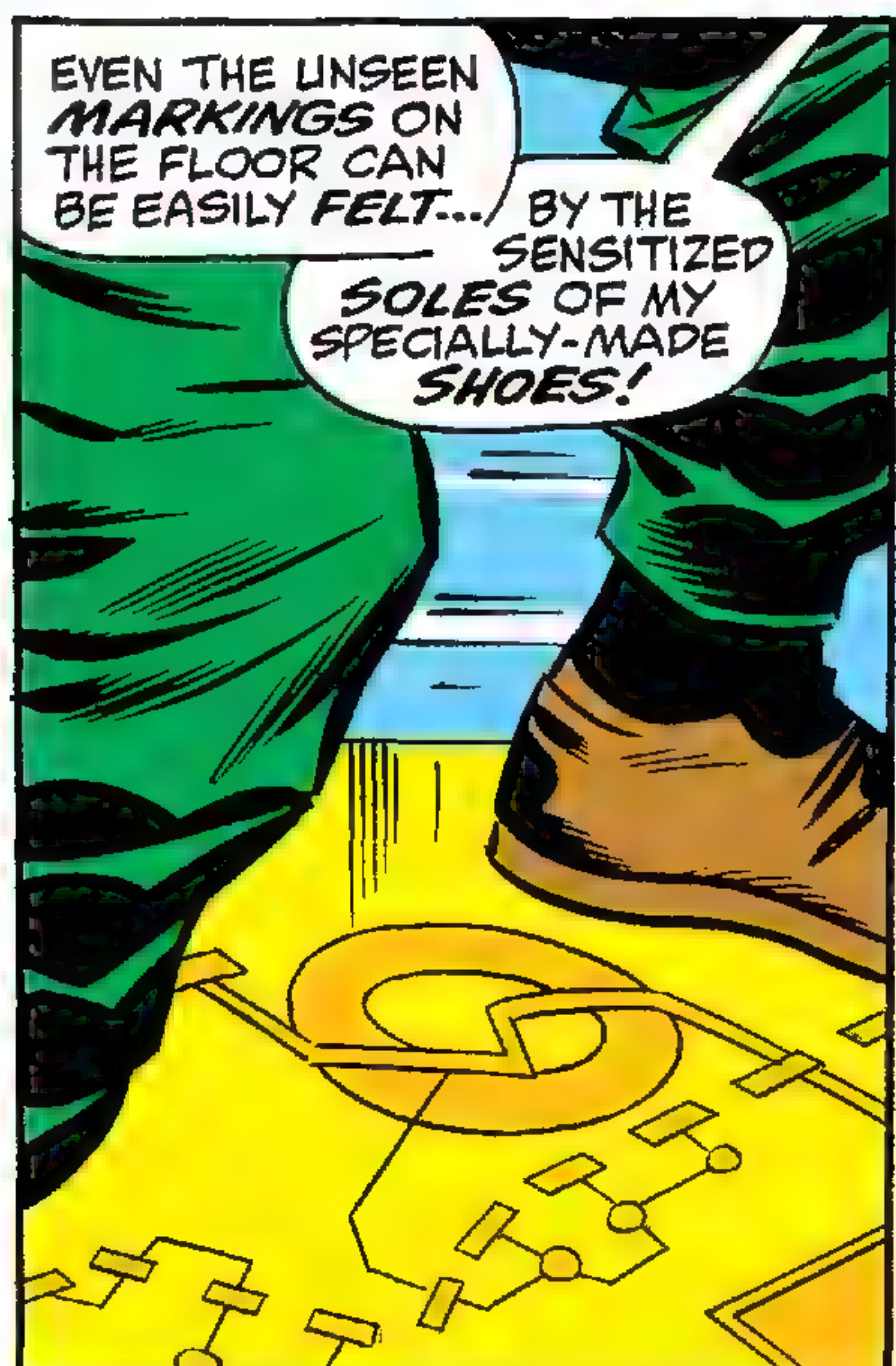
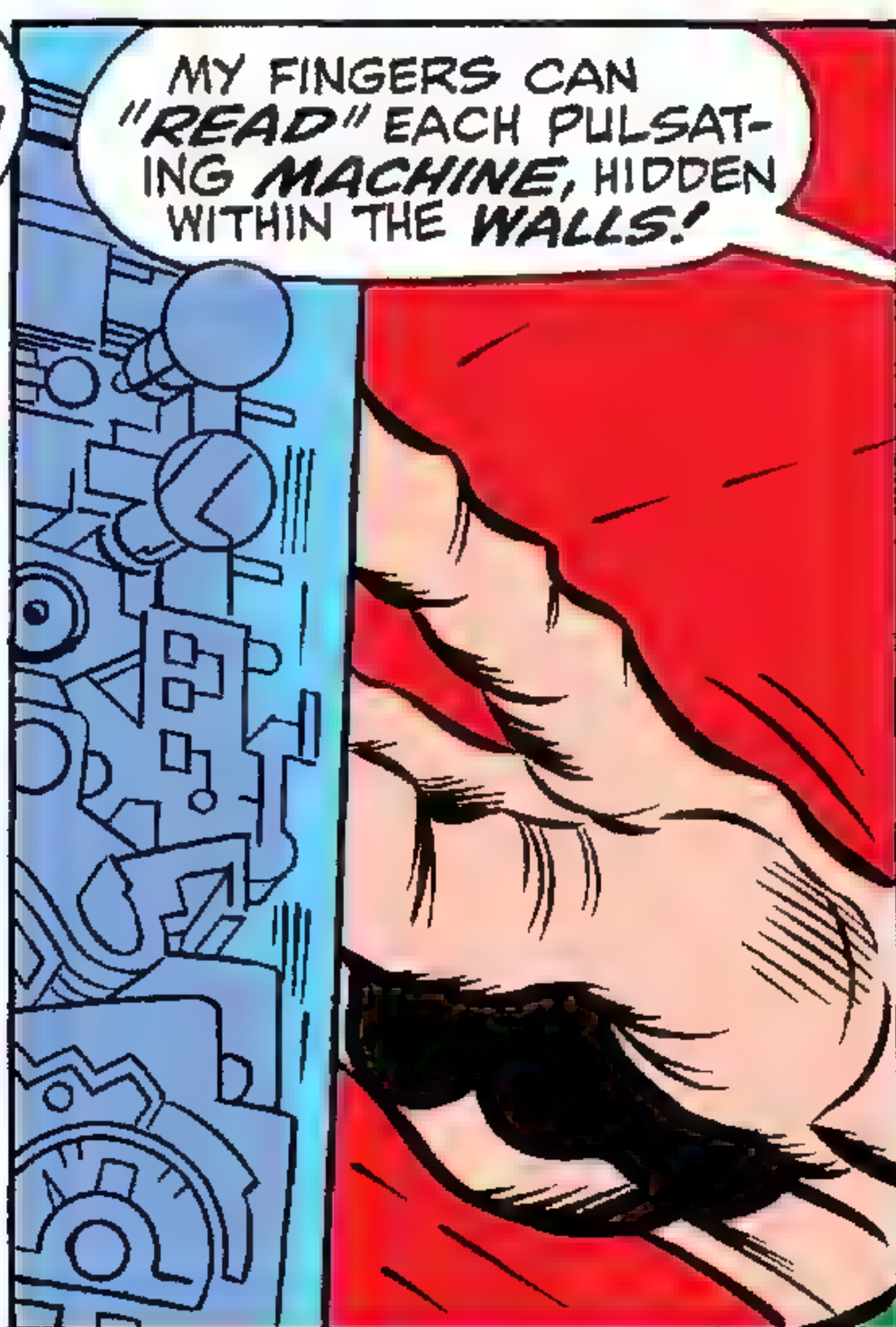
UH OH! HOW WRONG CAN I BE?

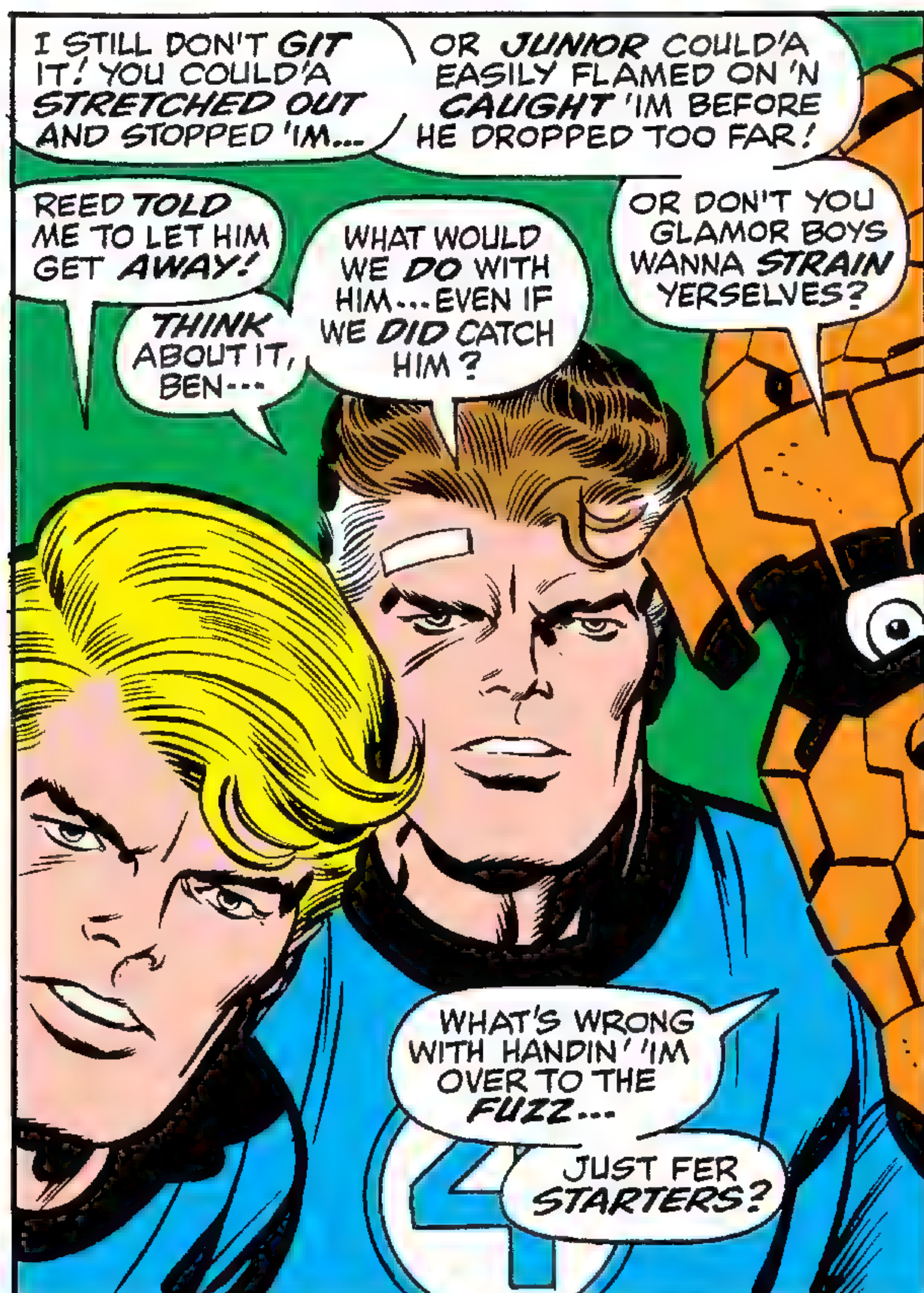
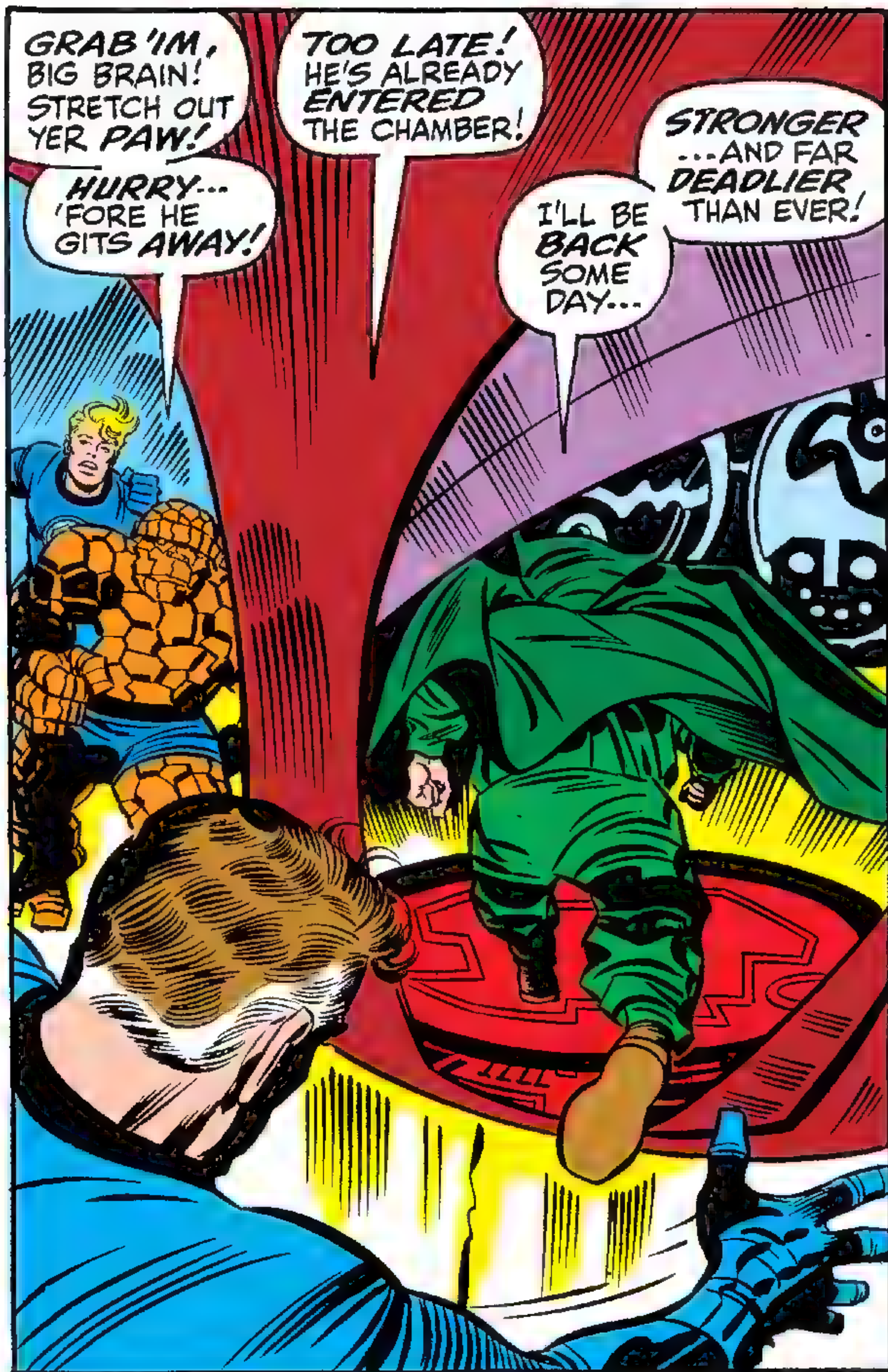
THE WHOLE THING IS FIREPROOF!

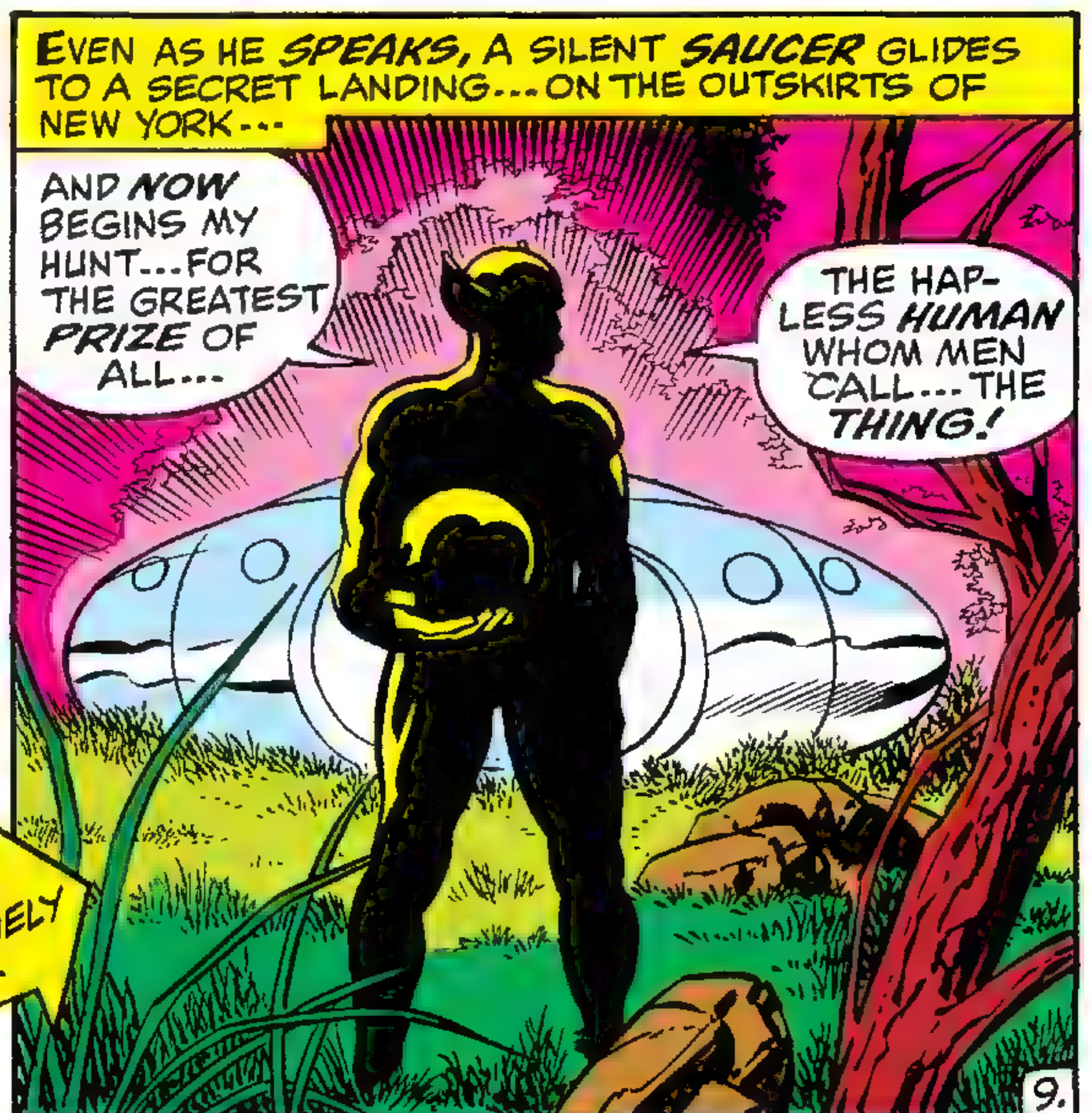
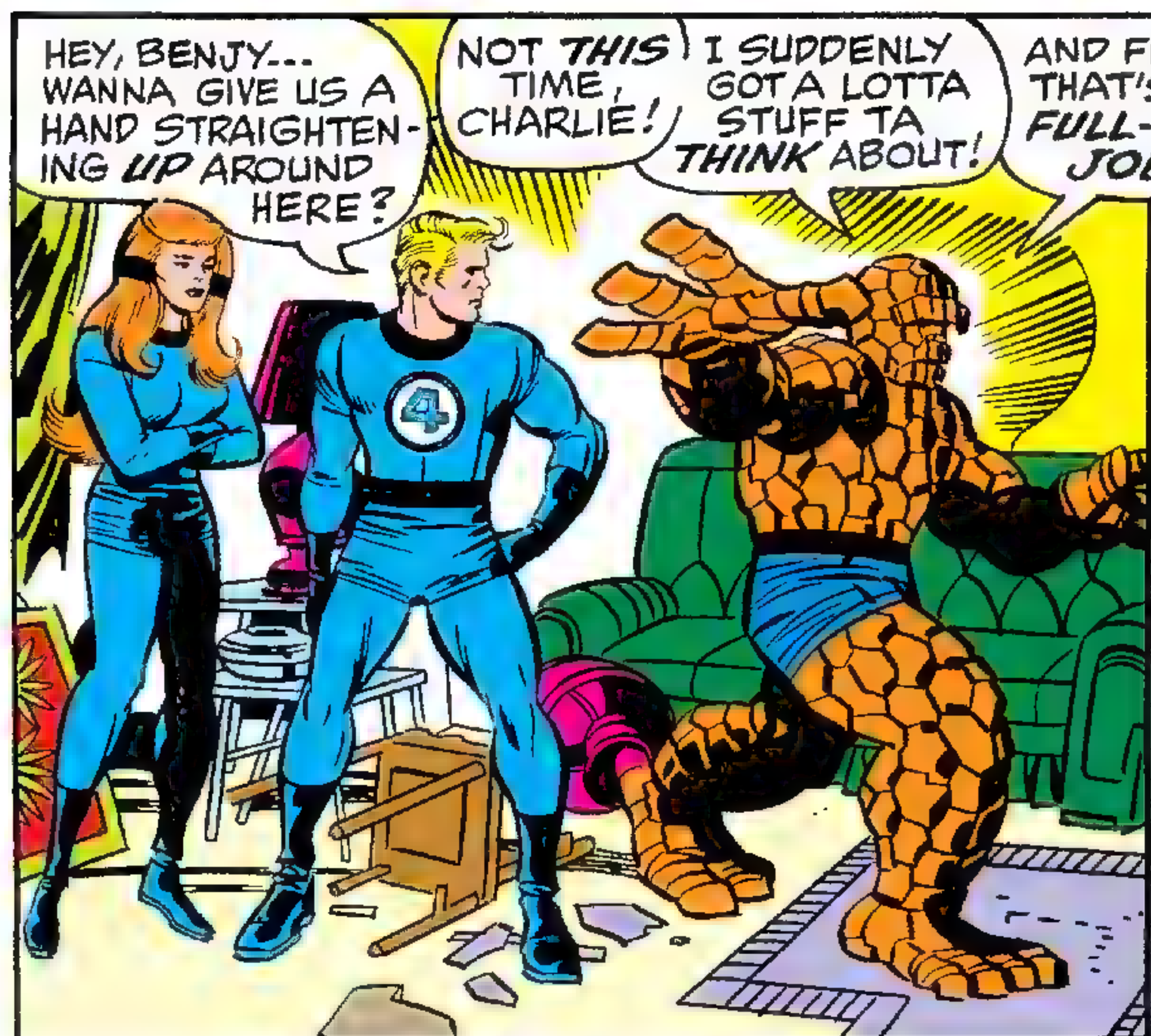
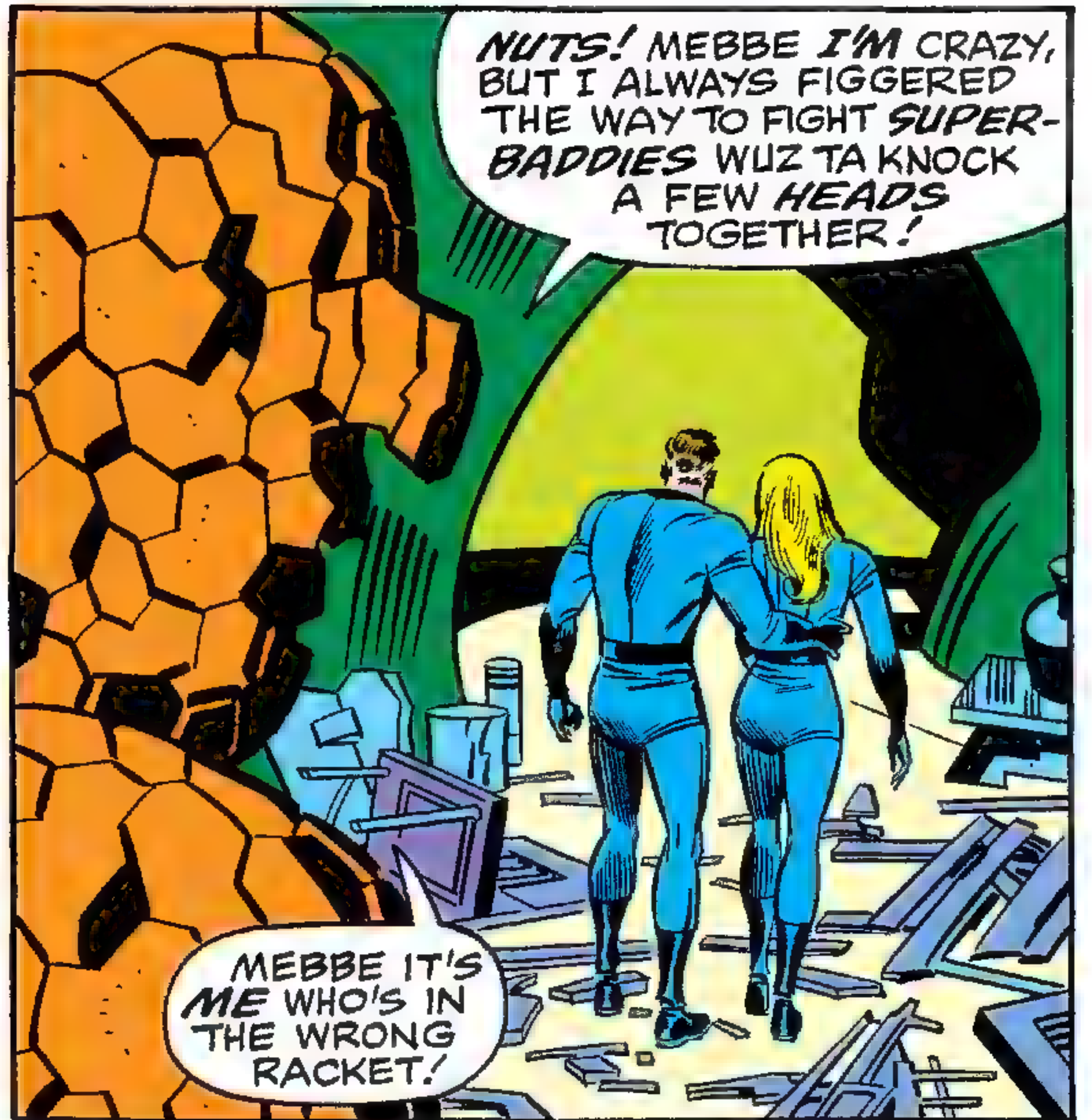
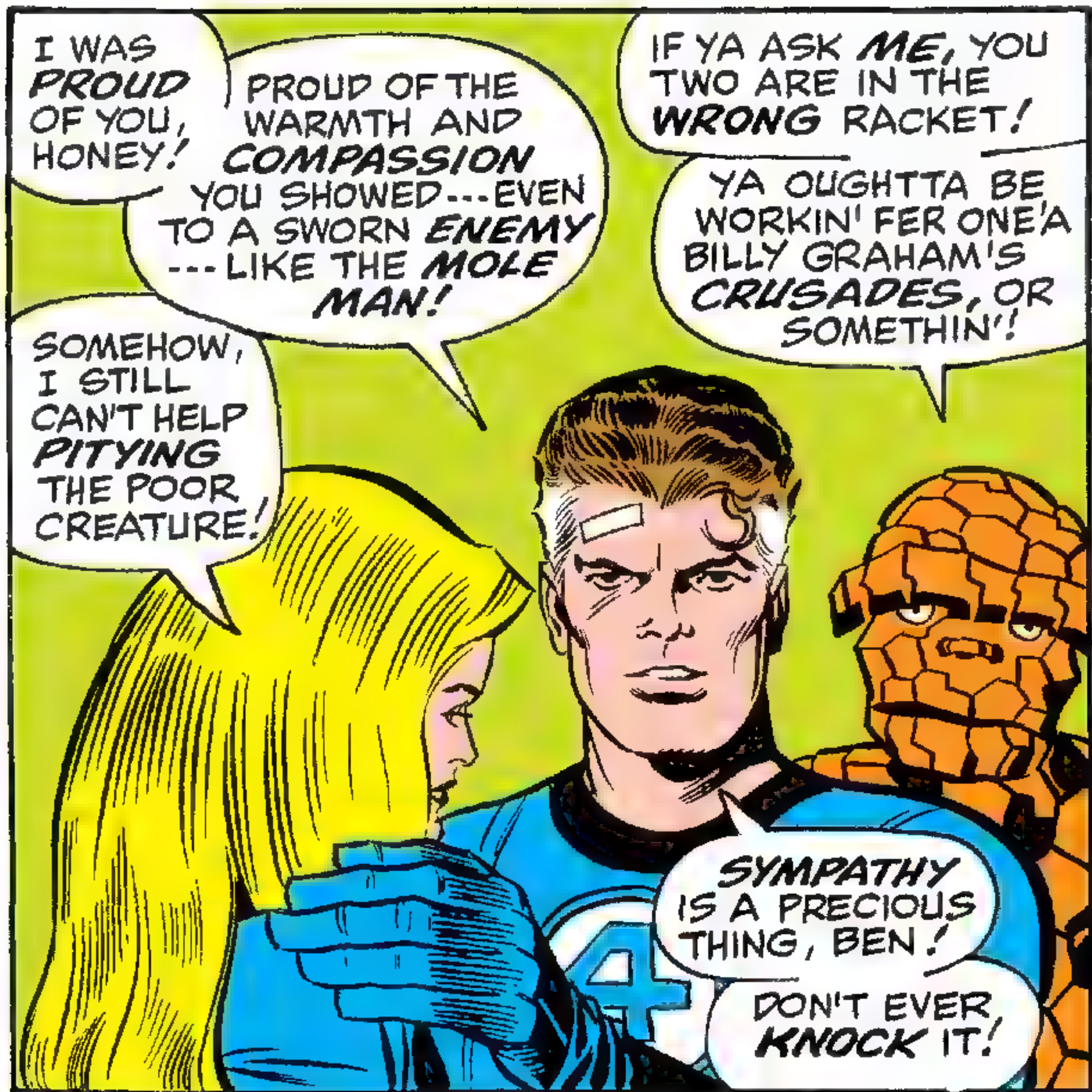


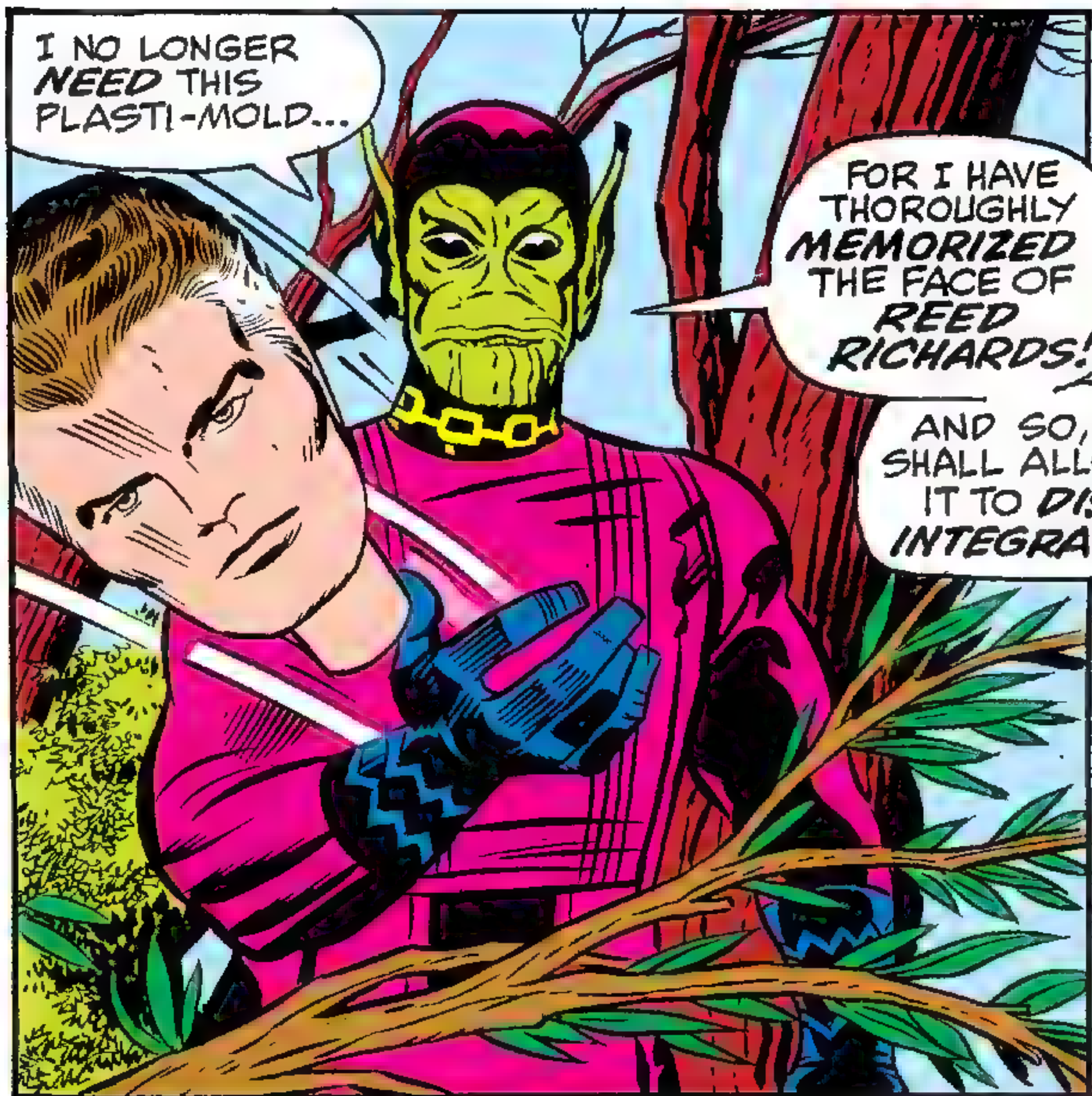












I NO LONGER
NEED THIS
PLASTI-MOLD...

FOR I HAVE
THOROUGHLY
MEMORIZED
THE FACE OF
REED
RICHARDS!

AND SO, I
SHALL ALLOW
IT TO DIS-
INTEGRATE!

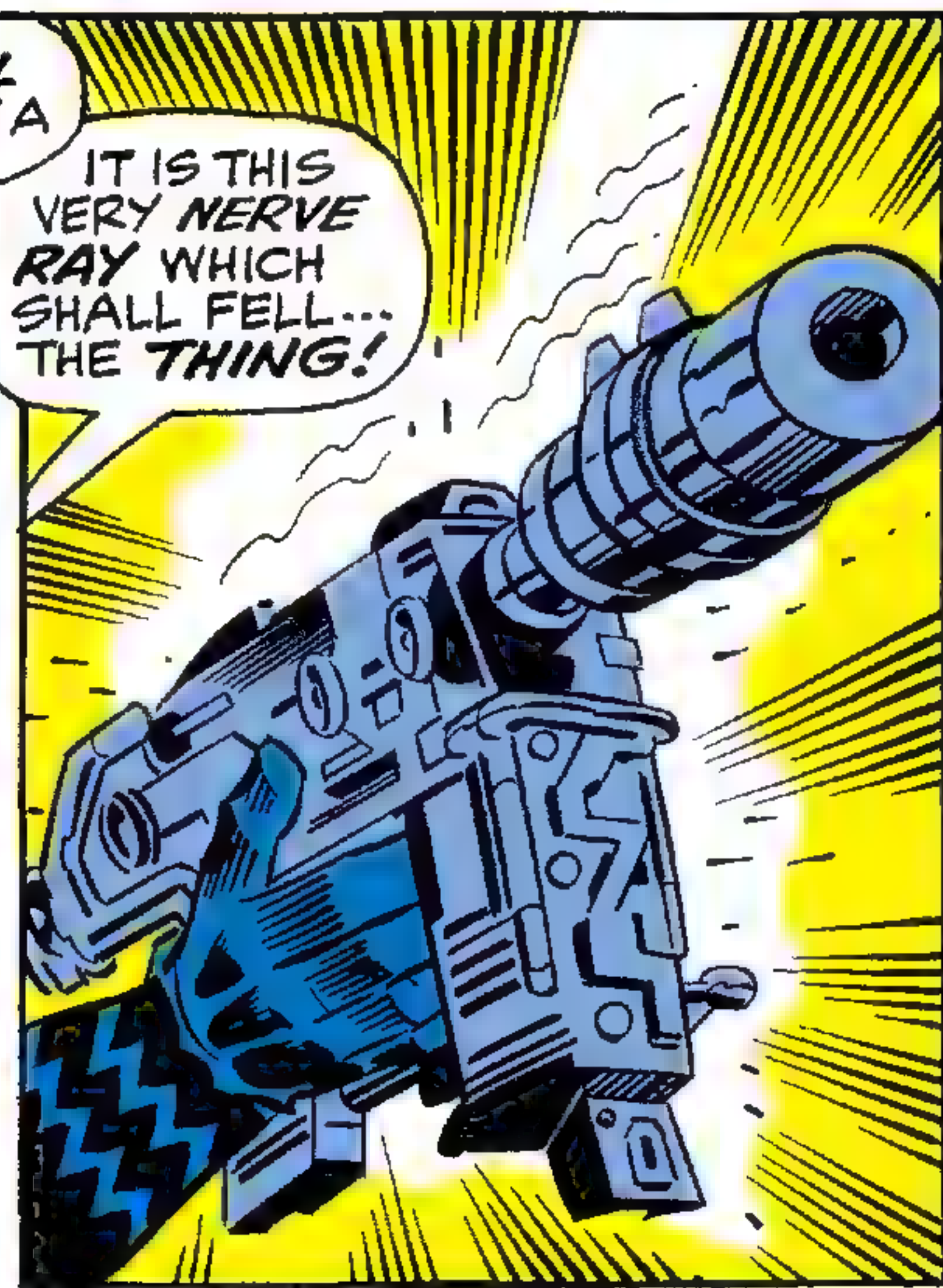


THE TIME IS COME TO CHECK THE
MINIATURIZED EQUIPMENT
HIDDEN IN MY
GLOVE...

A SINGLE
TOUCH CAN
ACTIVATE
IT...



...BRINGING IT TO FULL
SIZE IN THE SPACE OF A
HEARTBEAT!



IT IS THIS
VERY NERVE
RAY WHICH
SHALL FELL...
THE *THING*!



BUT, FOR *NOW*...
IT MUST AGAIN BE
CONCEALED!

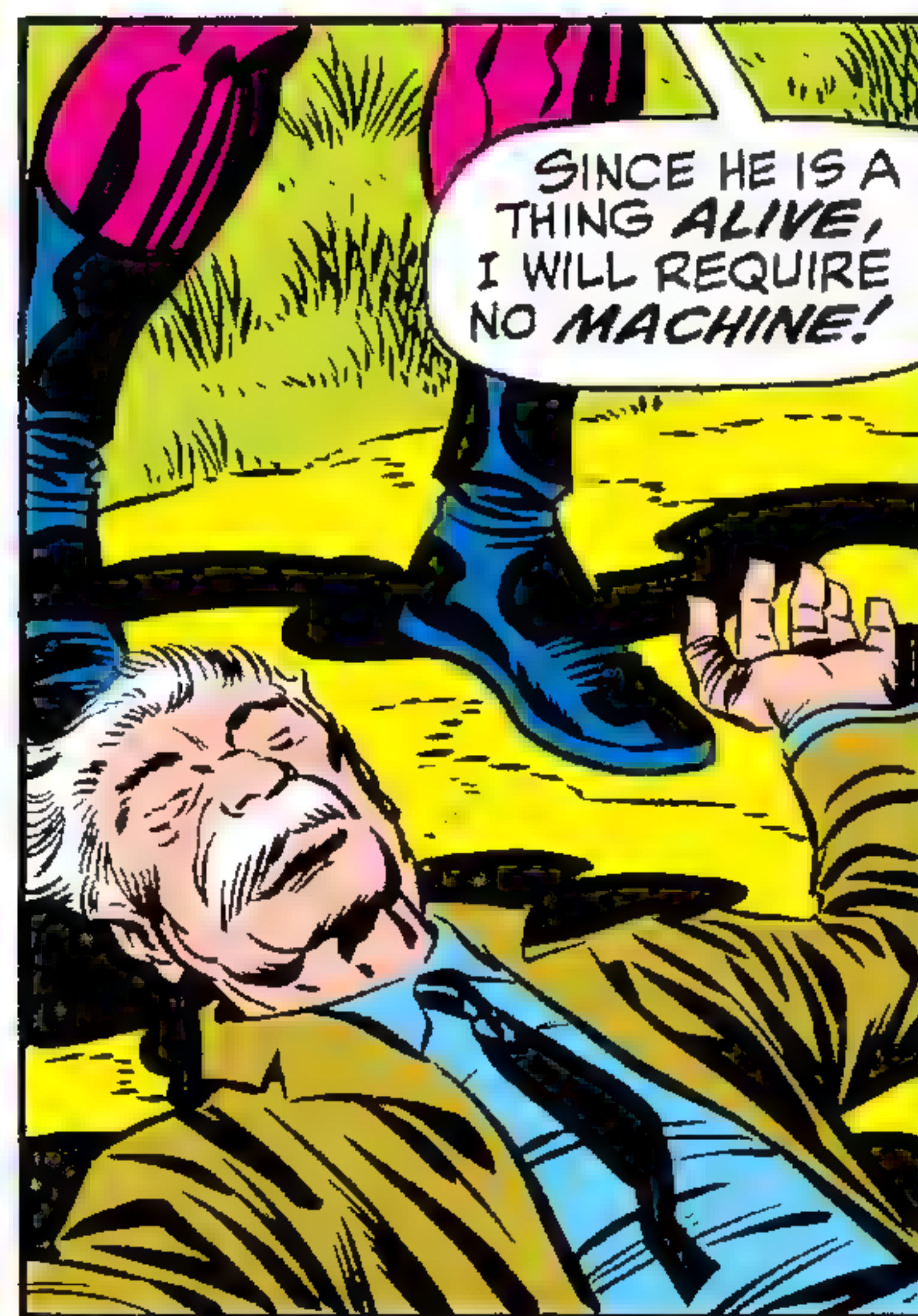
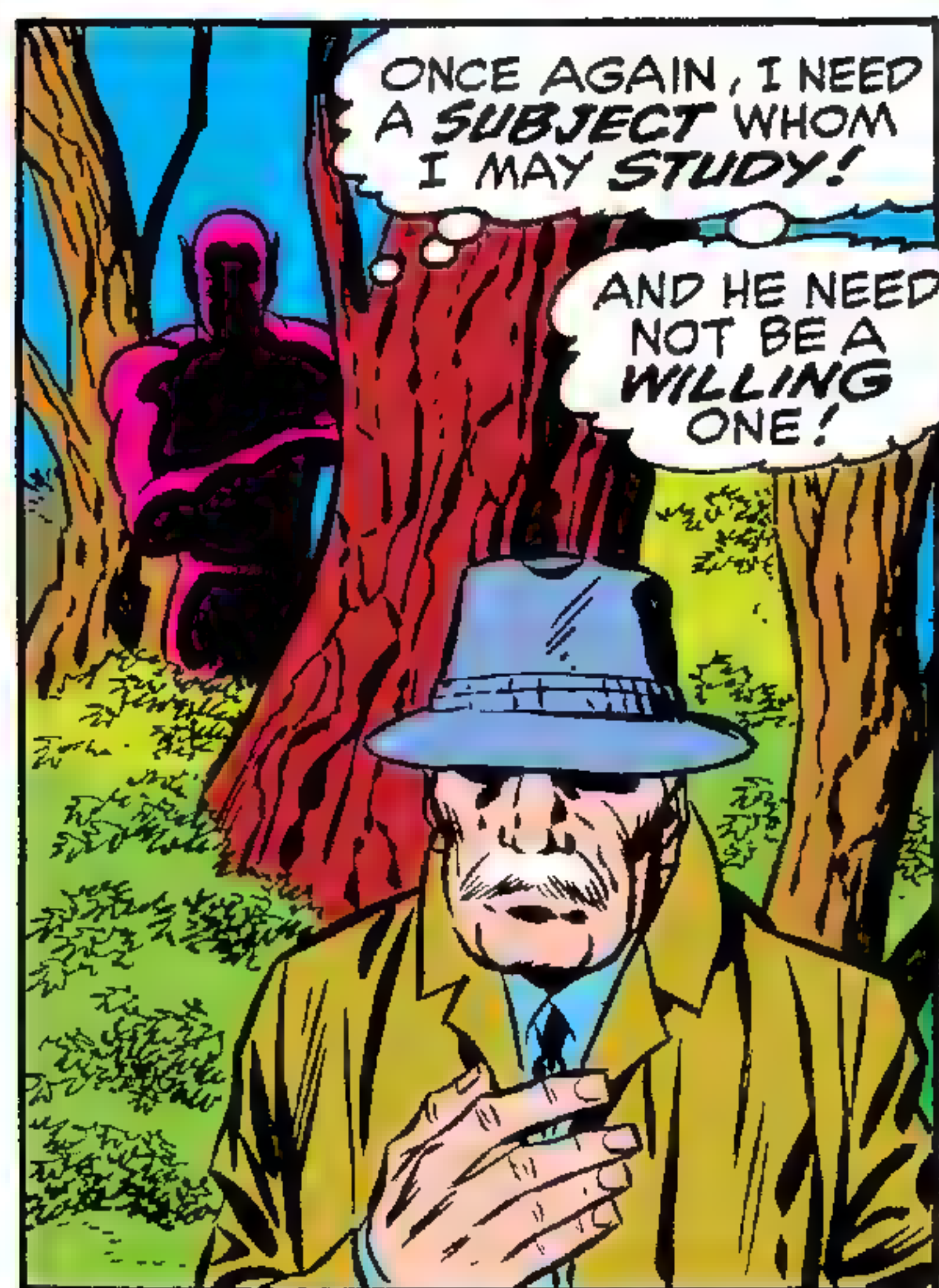
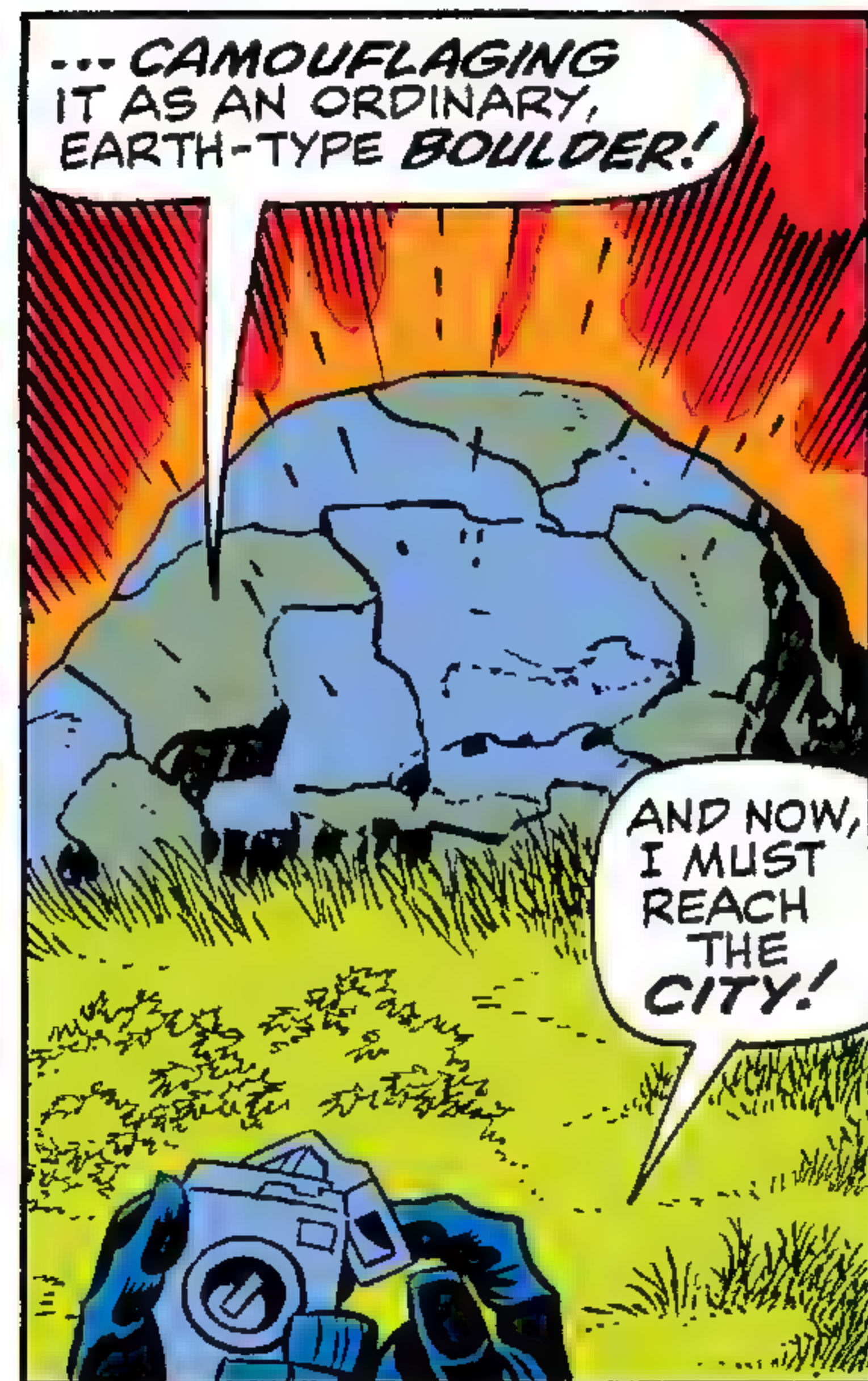
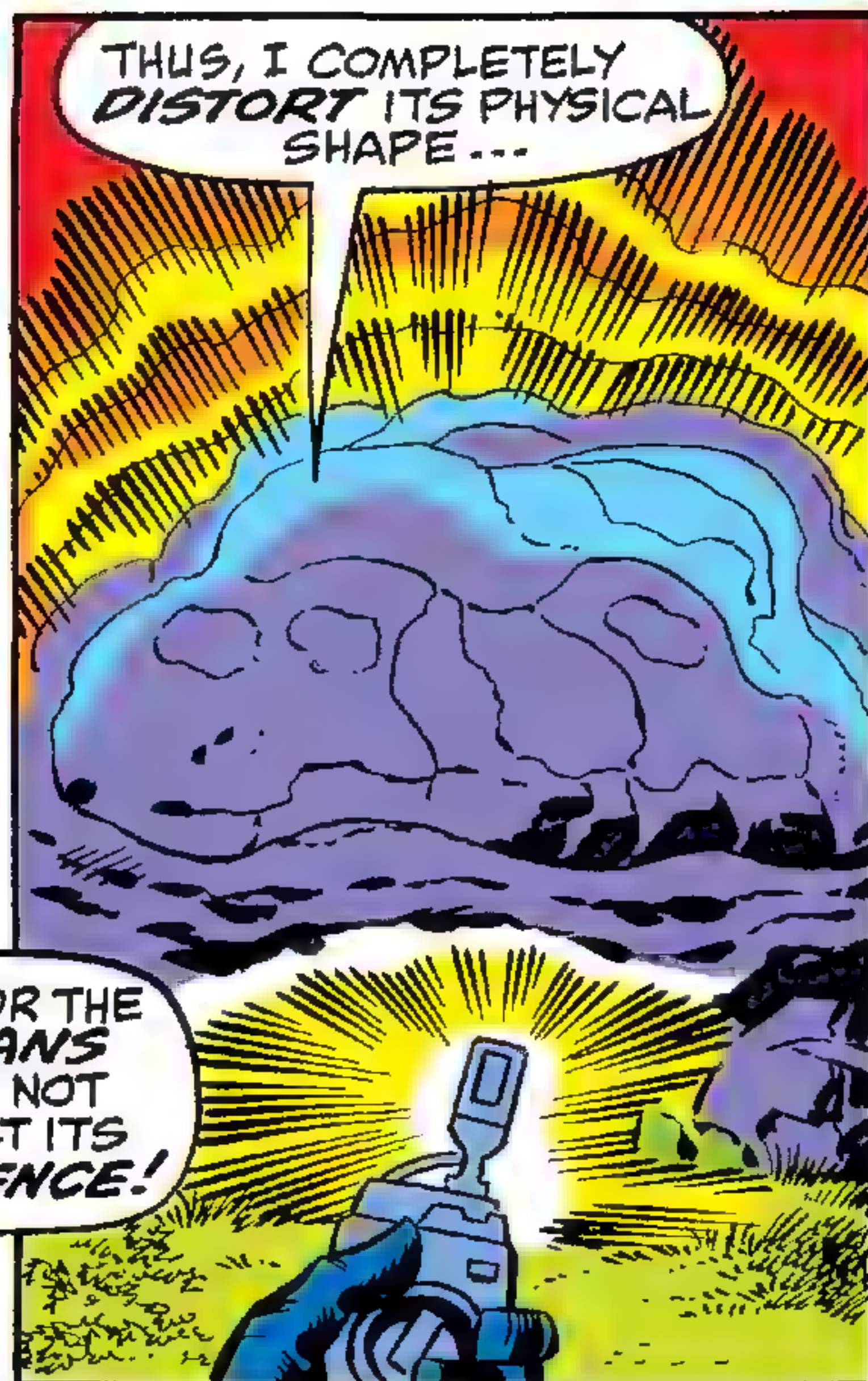
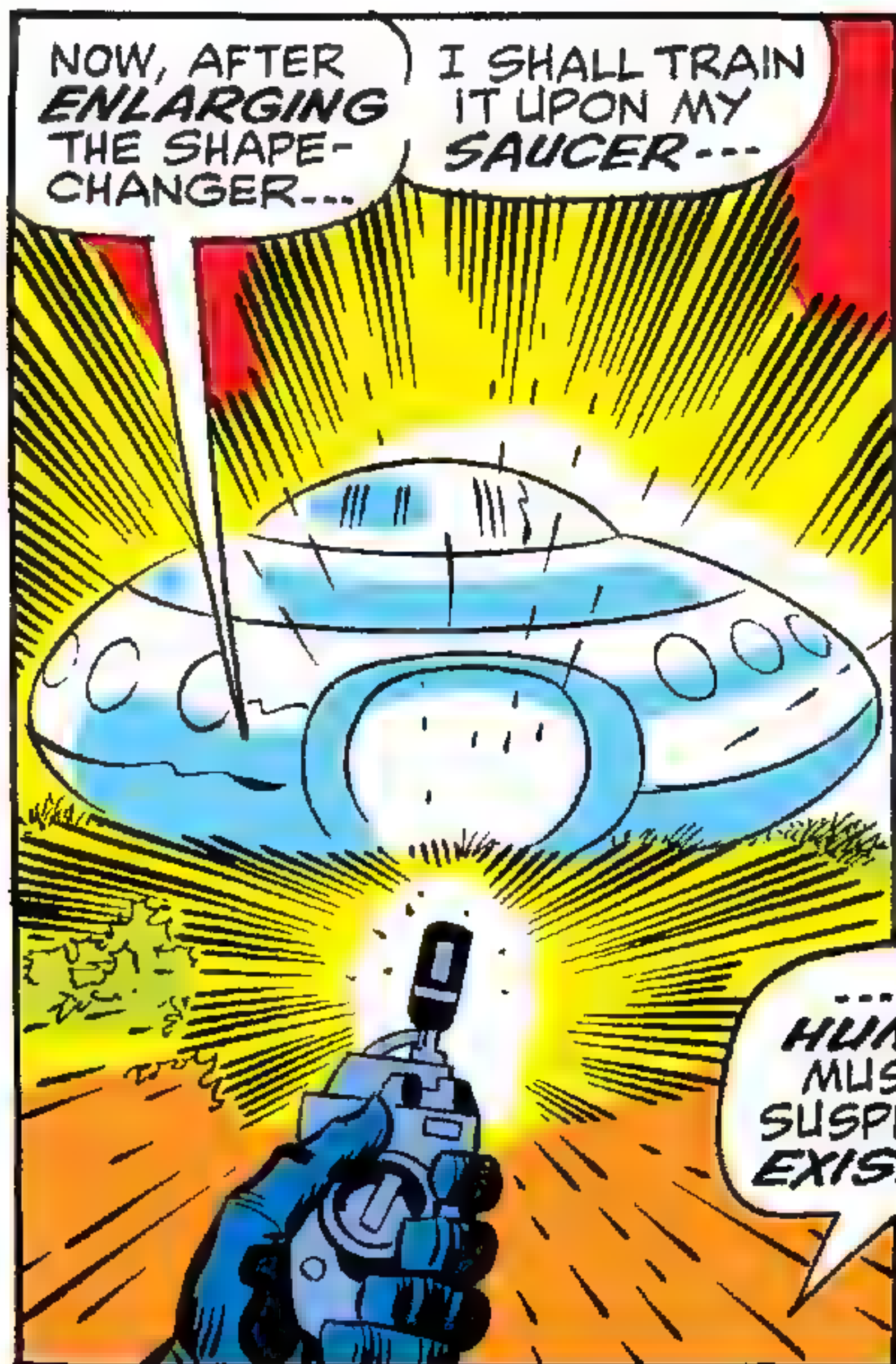


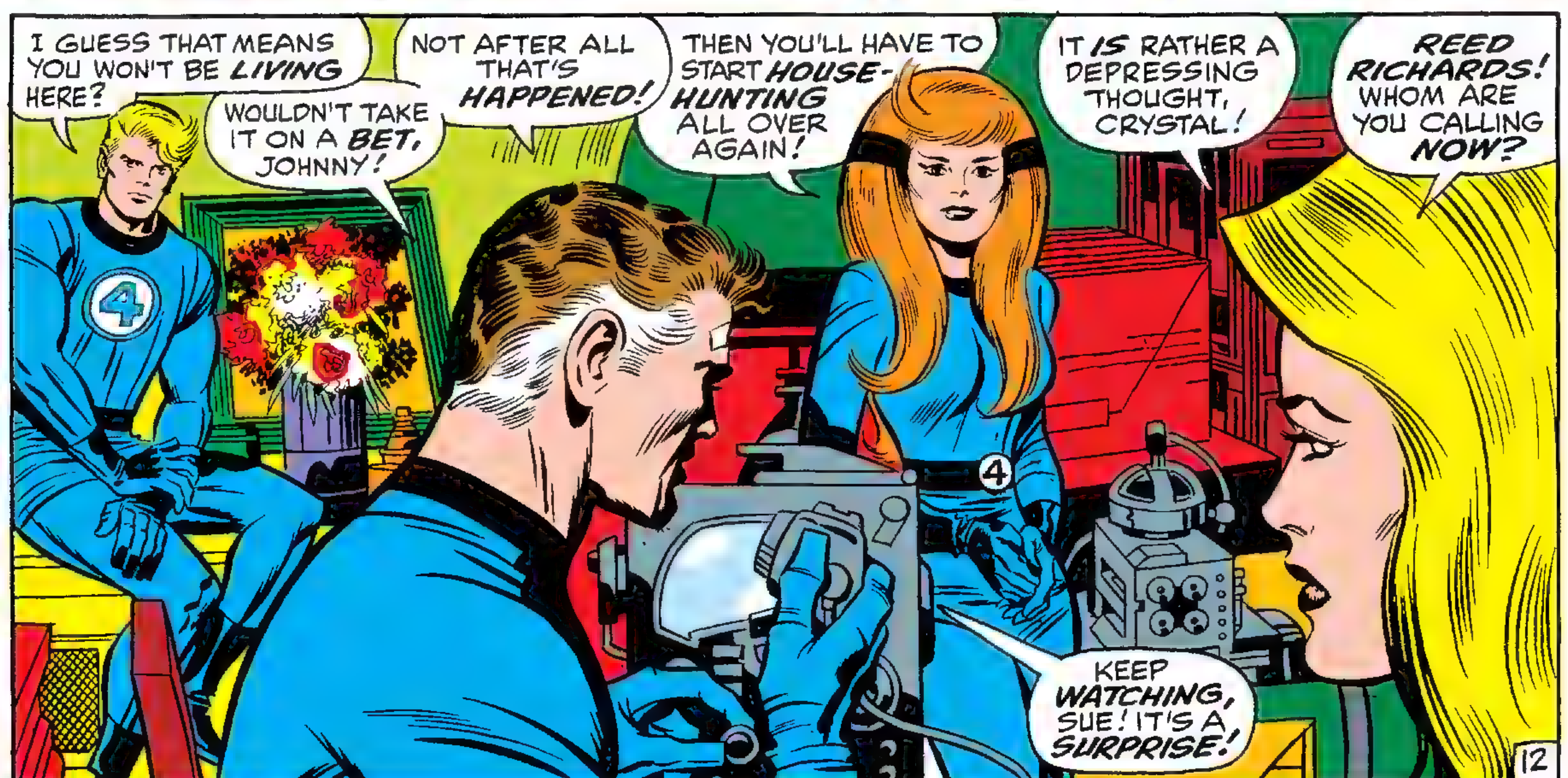
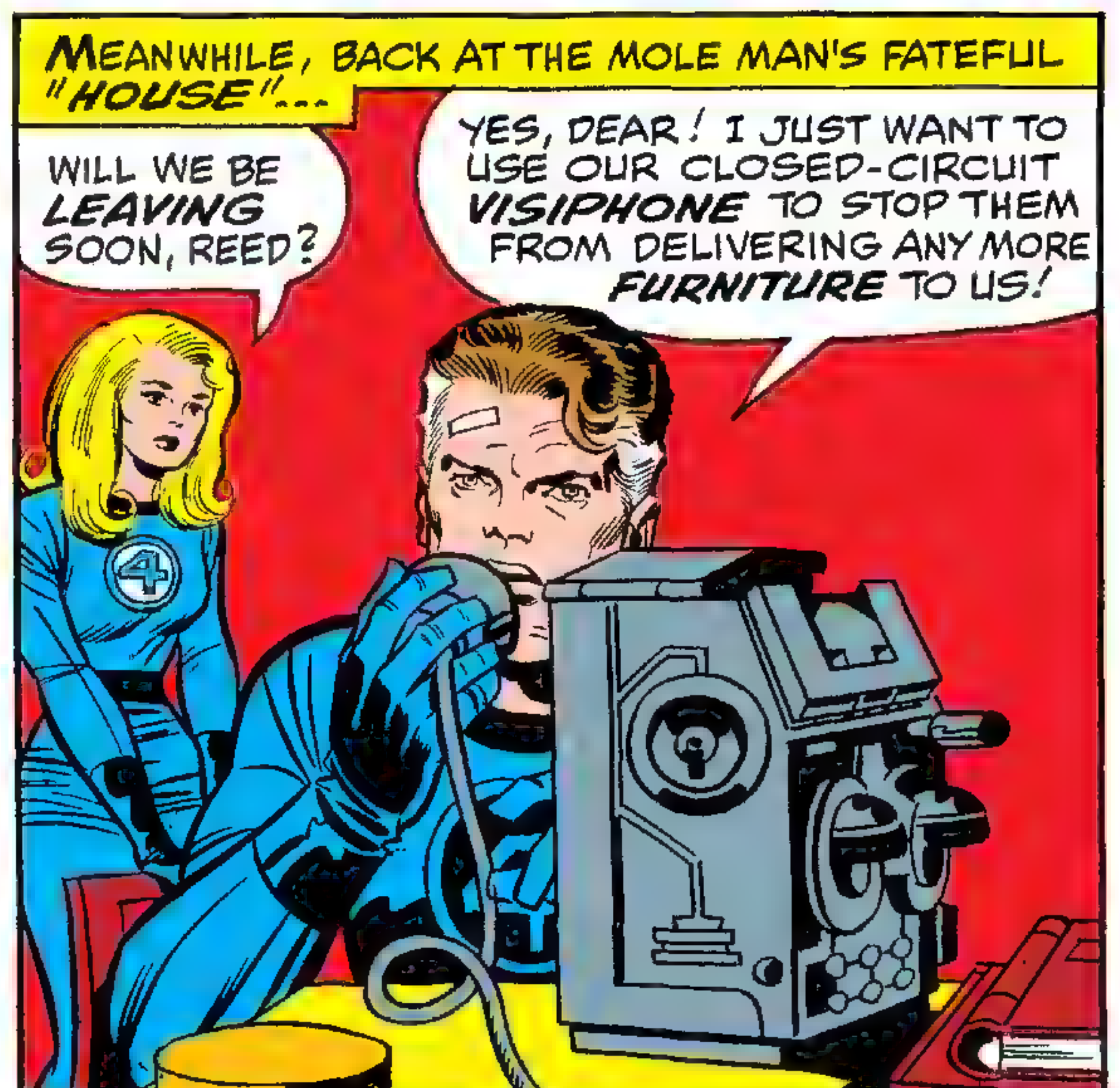
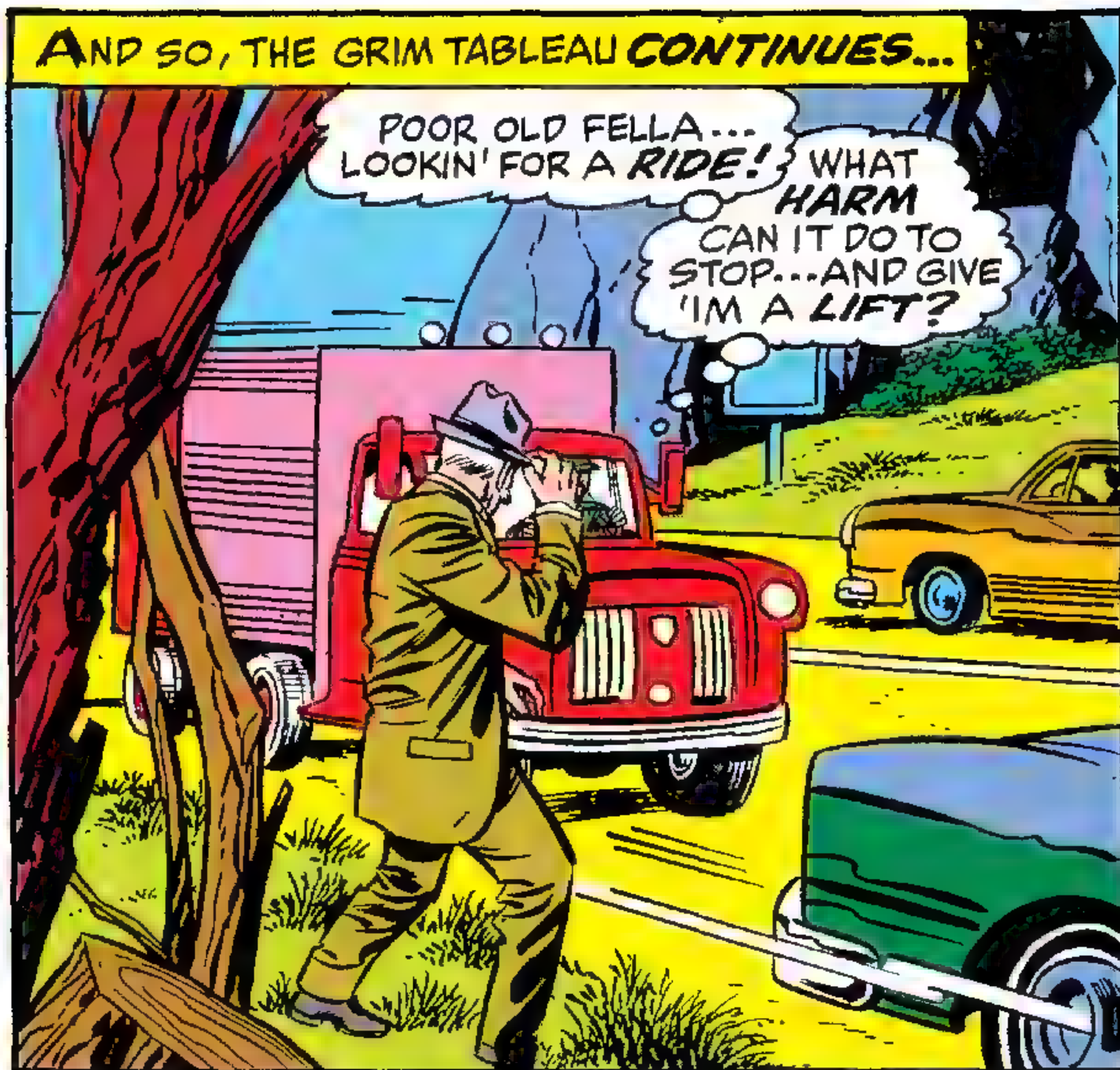
NEXT, I MUST TEST MY
HIGHLY-POTENT *SHAPE-
CHANGER*!

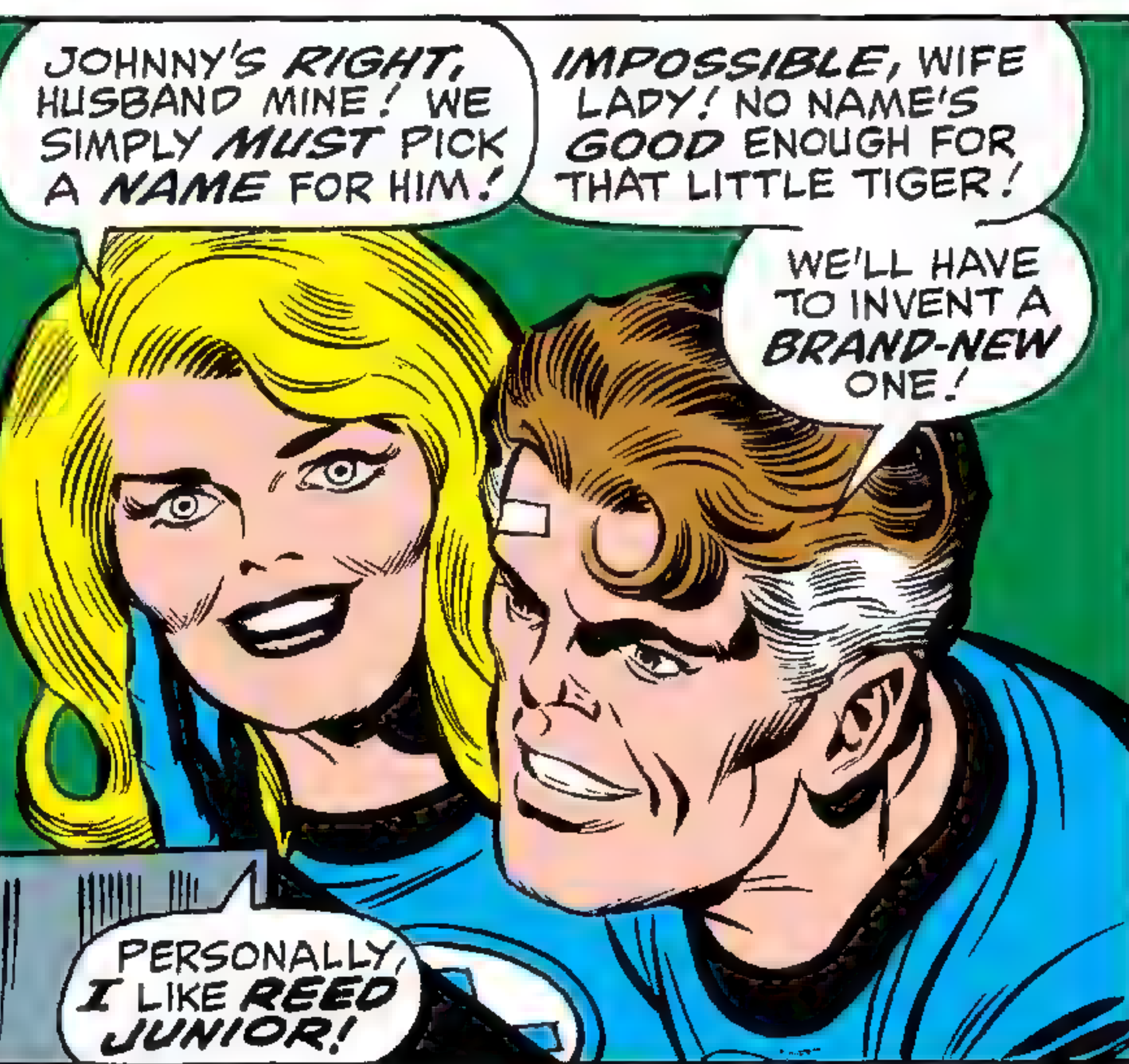
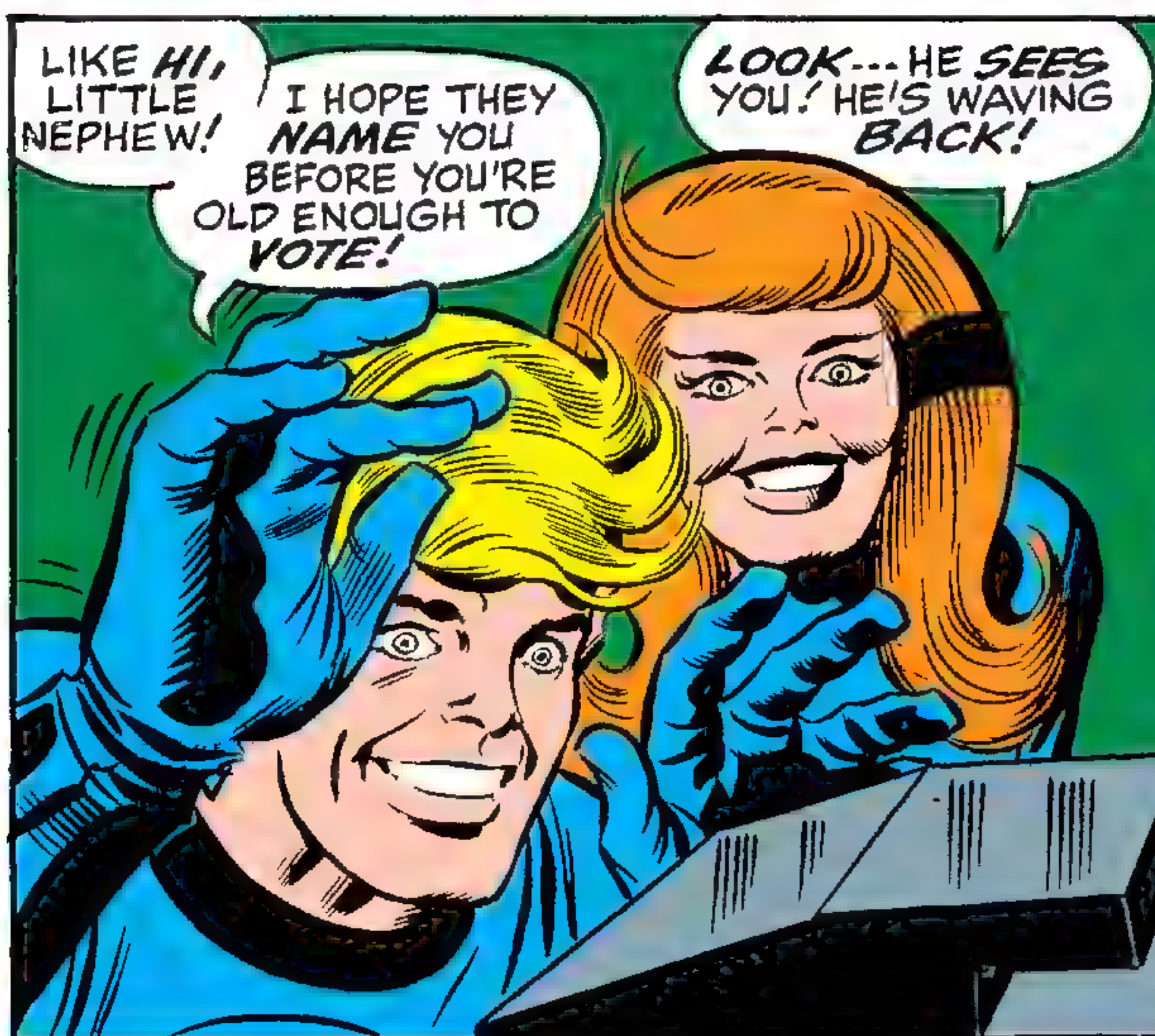
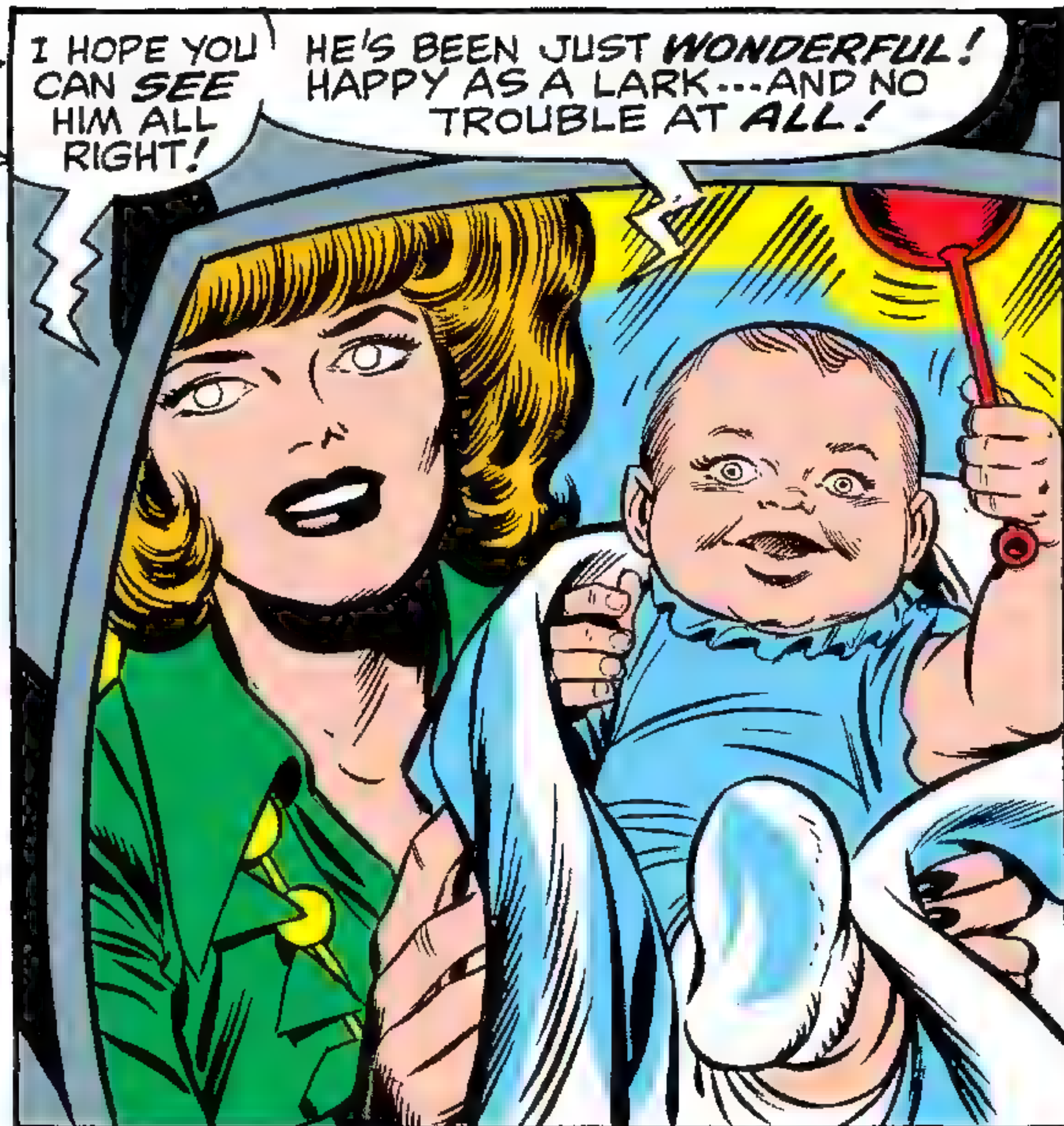
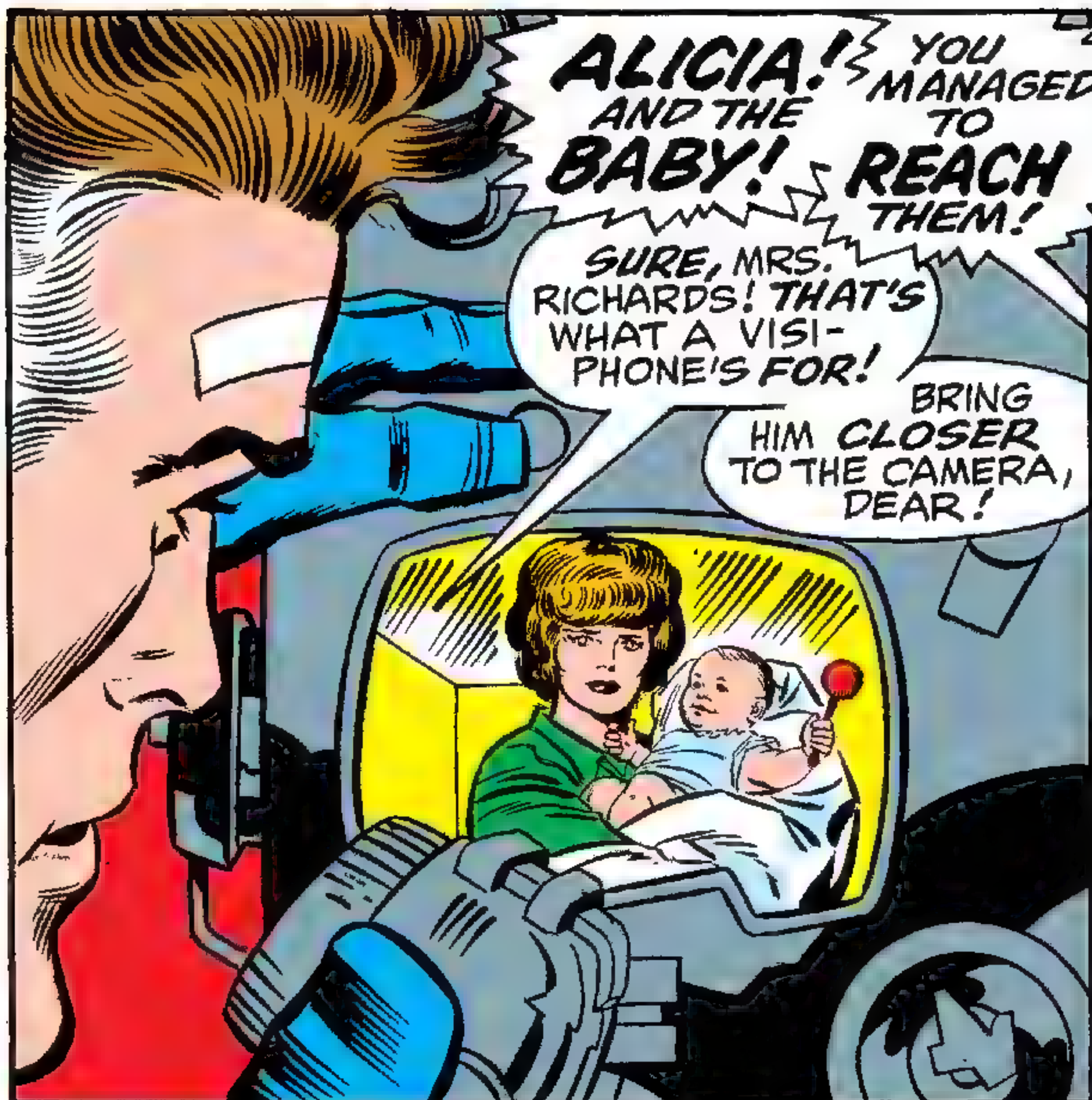
THOUGH
WE *SKRULLS*
CAN CHANGE
OUR *OWN*
APPEARANCE
IN AN INSTANT...



...IT IS NECESSARY FOR
US TO USE *MECHANICAL*
DEVICES TO CAUSE SUCH
CHANGES ON OUR
EQUIPMENT!









BUT, WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHAT'S THE MOLE MAN TRYING TO DO?

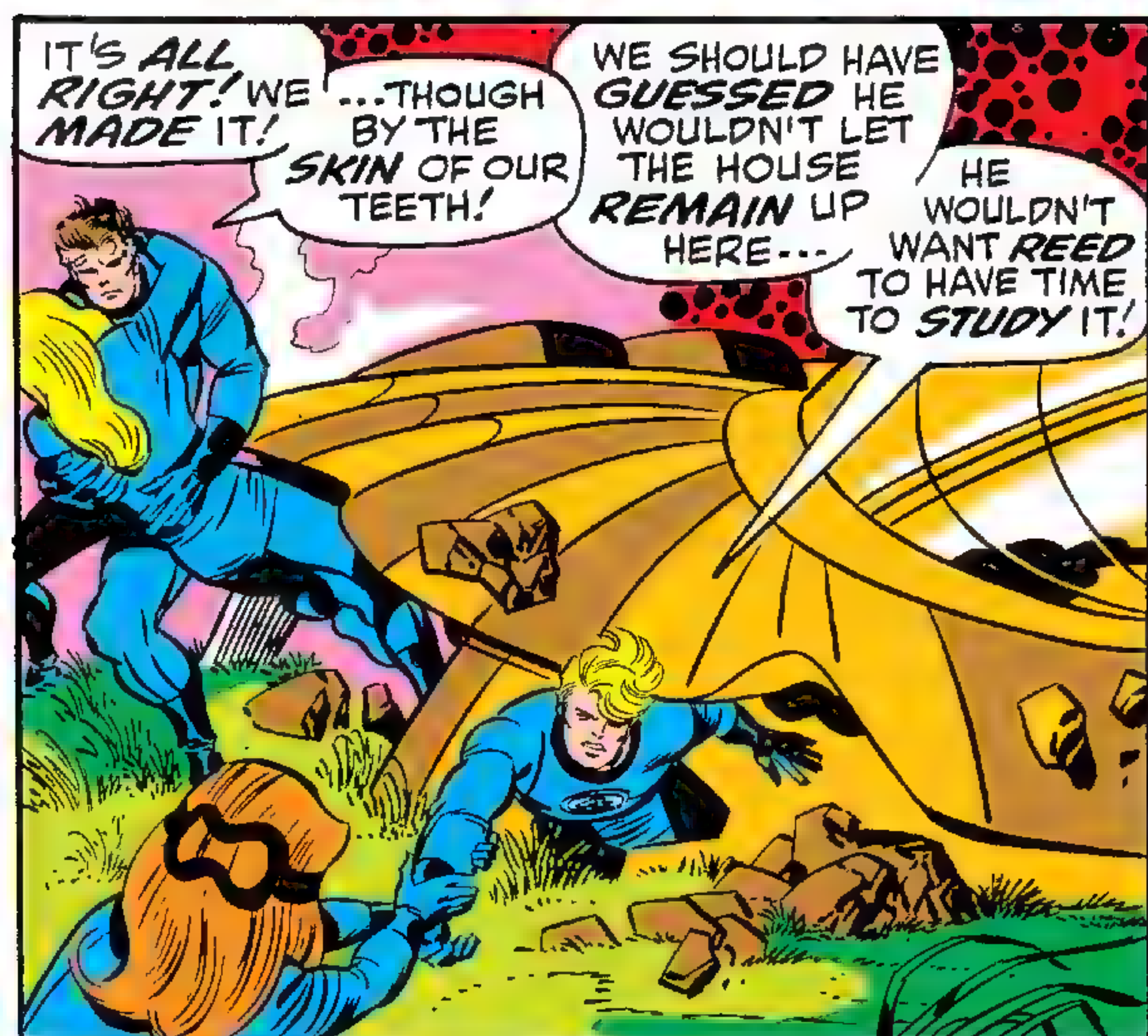
KEEP RUNNING, CRYSTAL... DON'T STOP!

IT FEELS LIKE... HE'S TRYING TO PULL THE WHOLE HOUSE DOWN!

THAT'S IT, JOHNNY!

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE'S TRYING TO DO!

BUT WE MUSTN'T GO DOWN WITH IT!

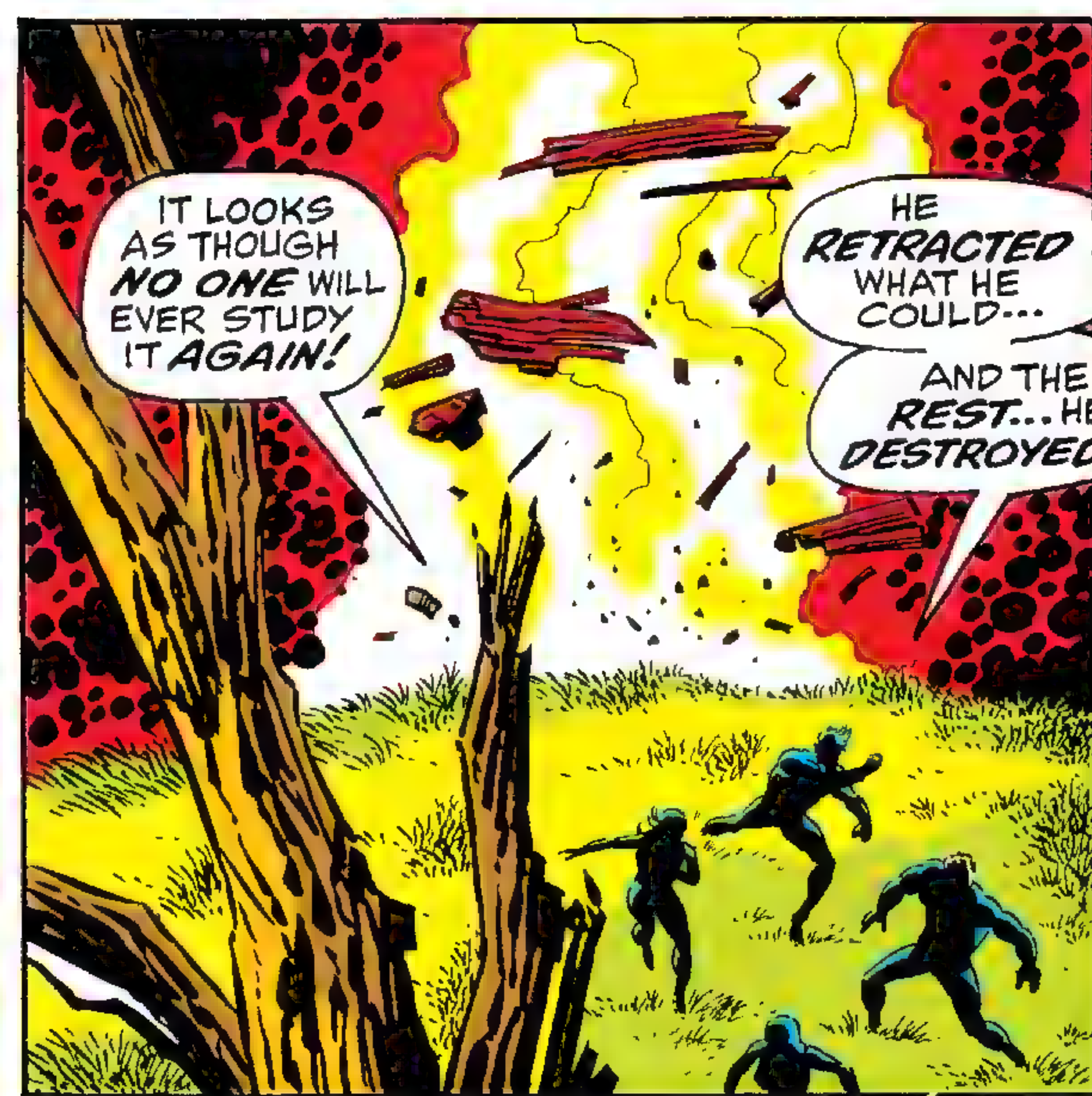


IT'S ALL RIGHT! WE MADE IT!

...THOUGH BY THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH!

WE SHOULD HAVE GUESSED HE WOULDN'T LET THE HOUSE REMAIN UP HERE...

HE WOULDN'T WANT REED TO HAVE TIME TO STUDY IT!



IT LOOKS AS THOUGH NO ONE WILL EVER STUDY IT AGAIN!

HE RETRACTED WHAT HE COULD...

AND THE REST... HE DESTROYED!

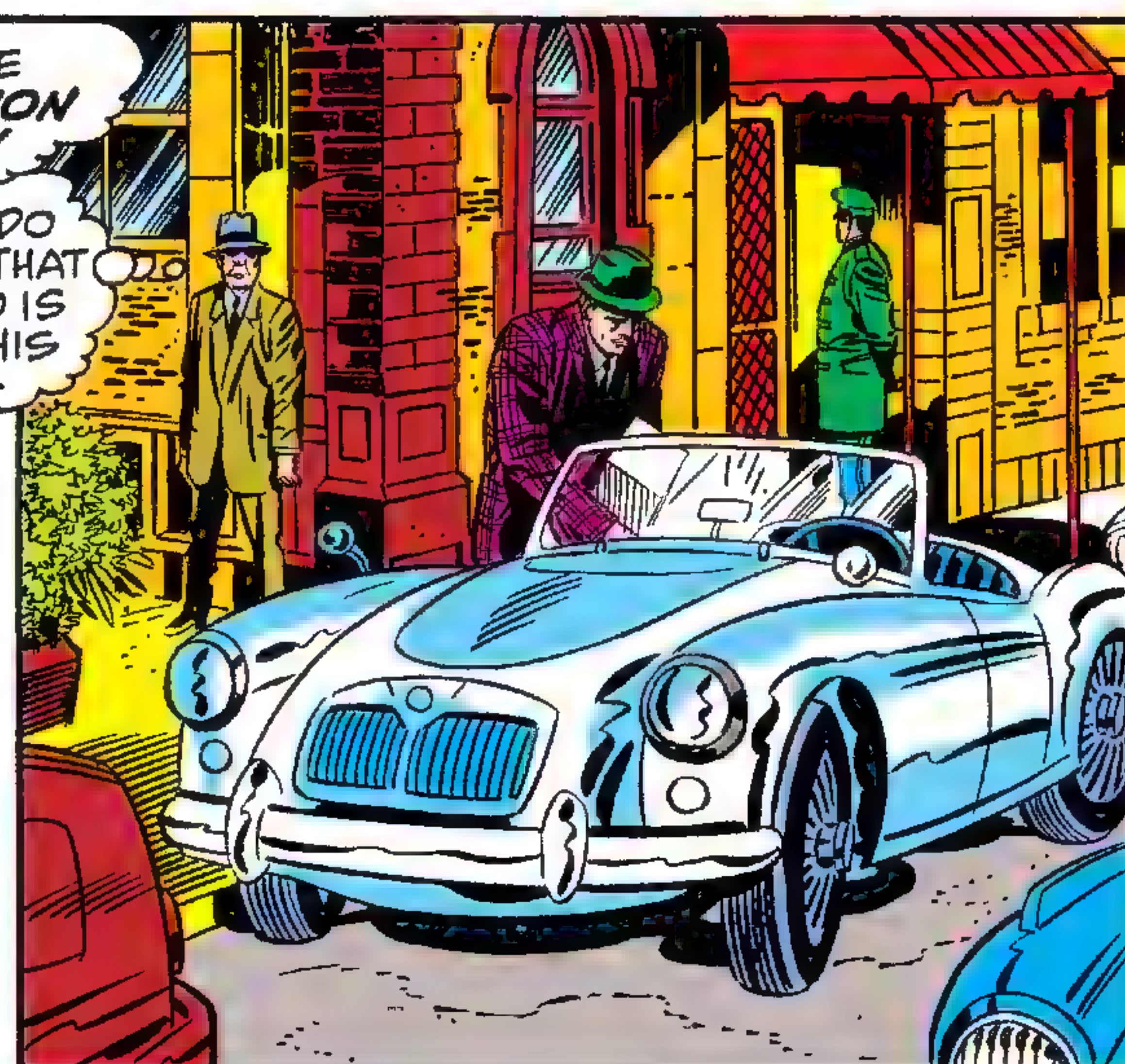
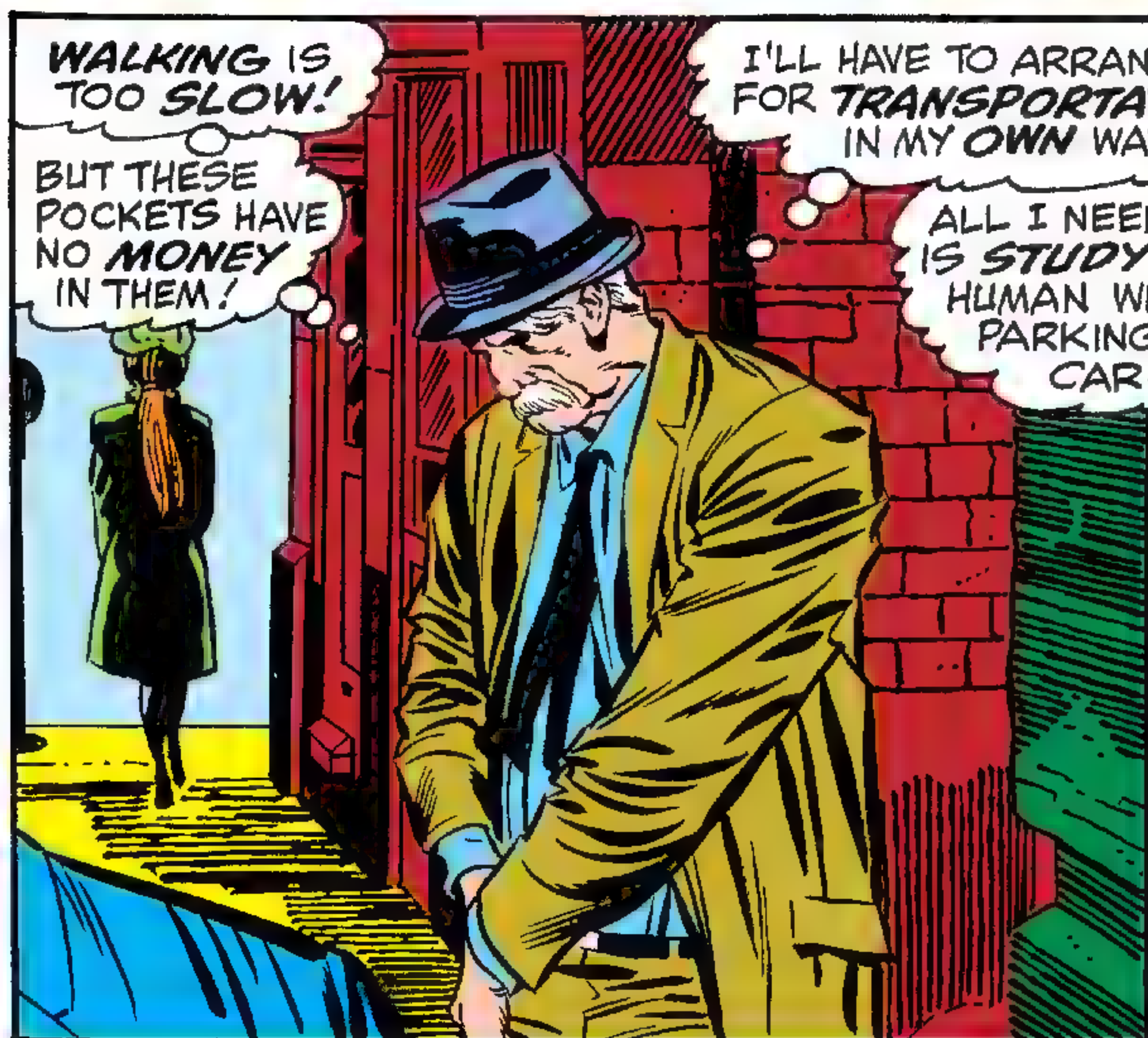


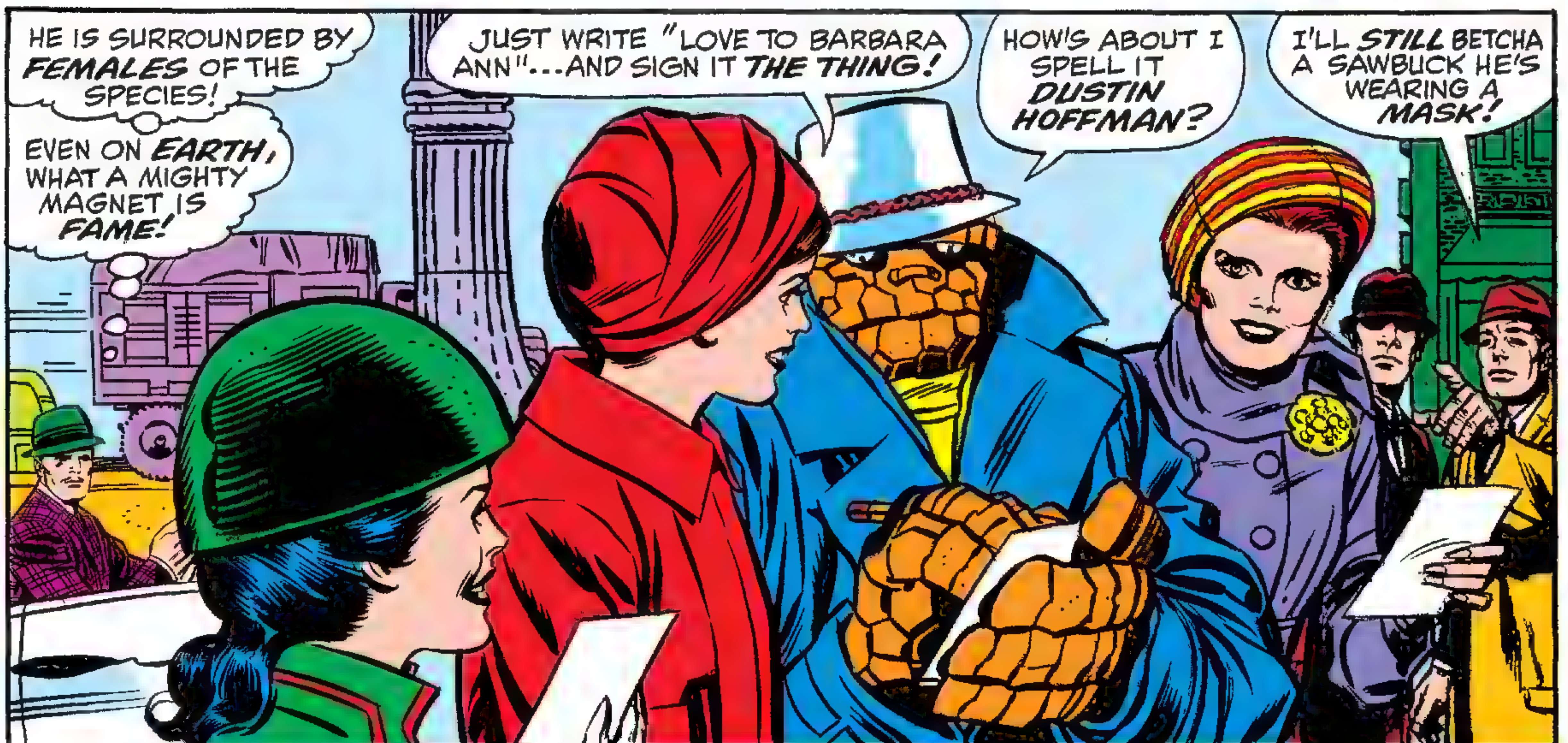
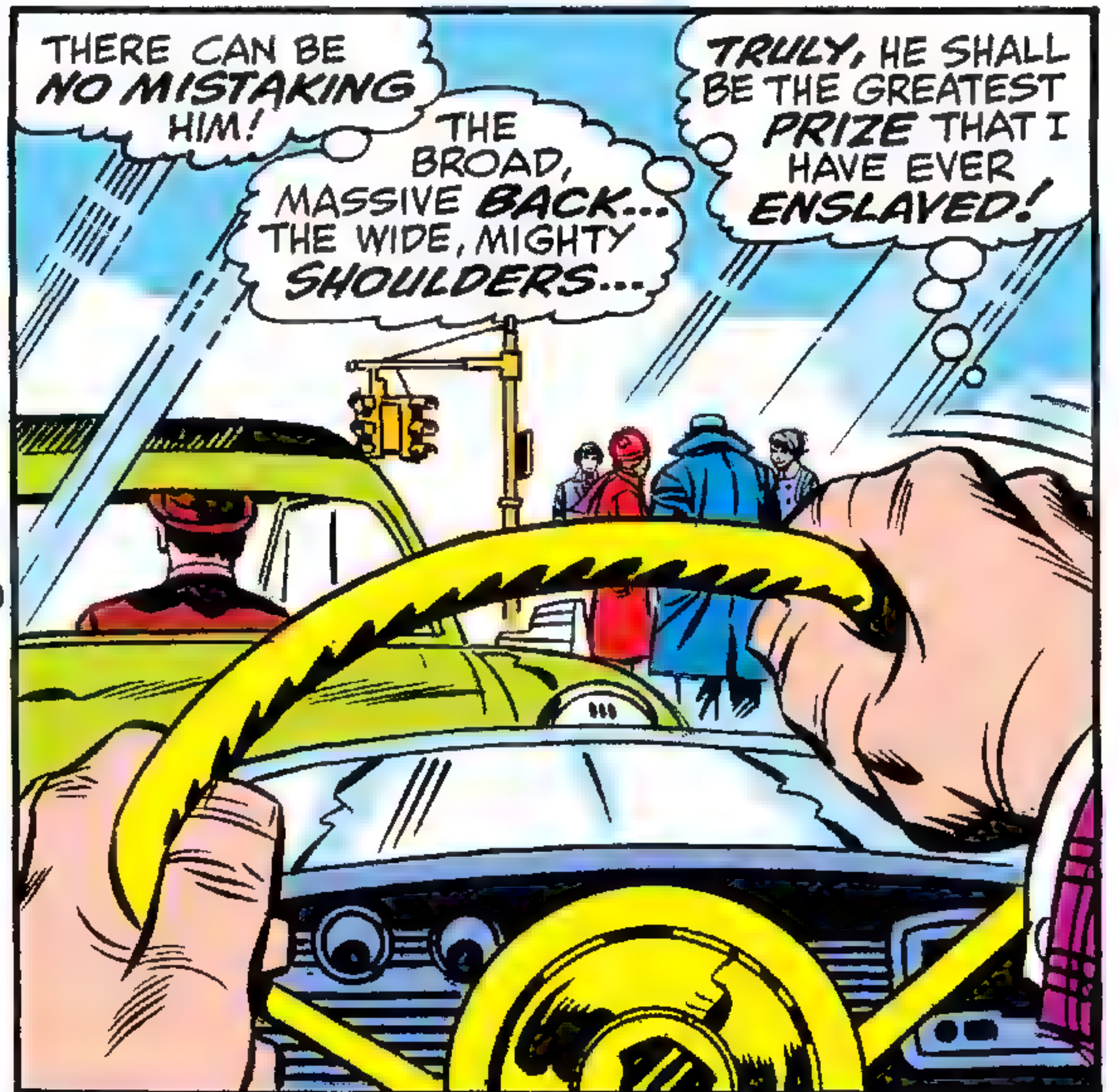
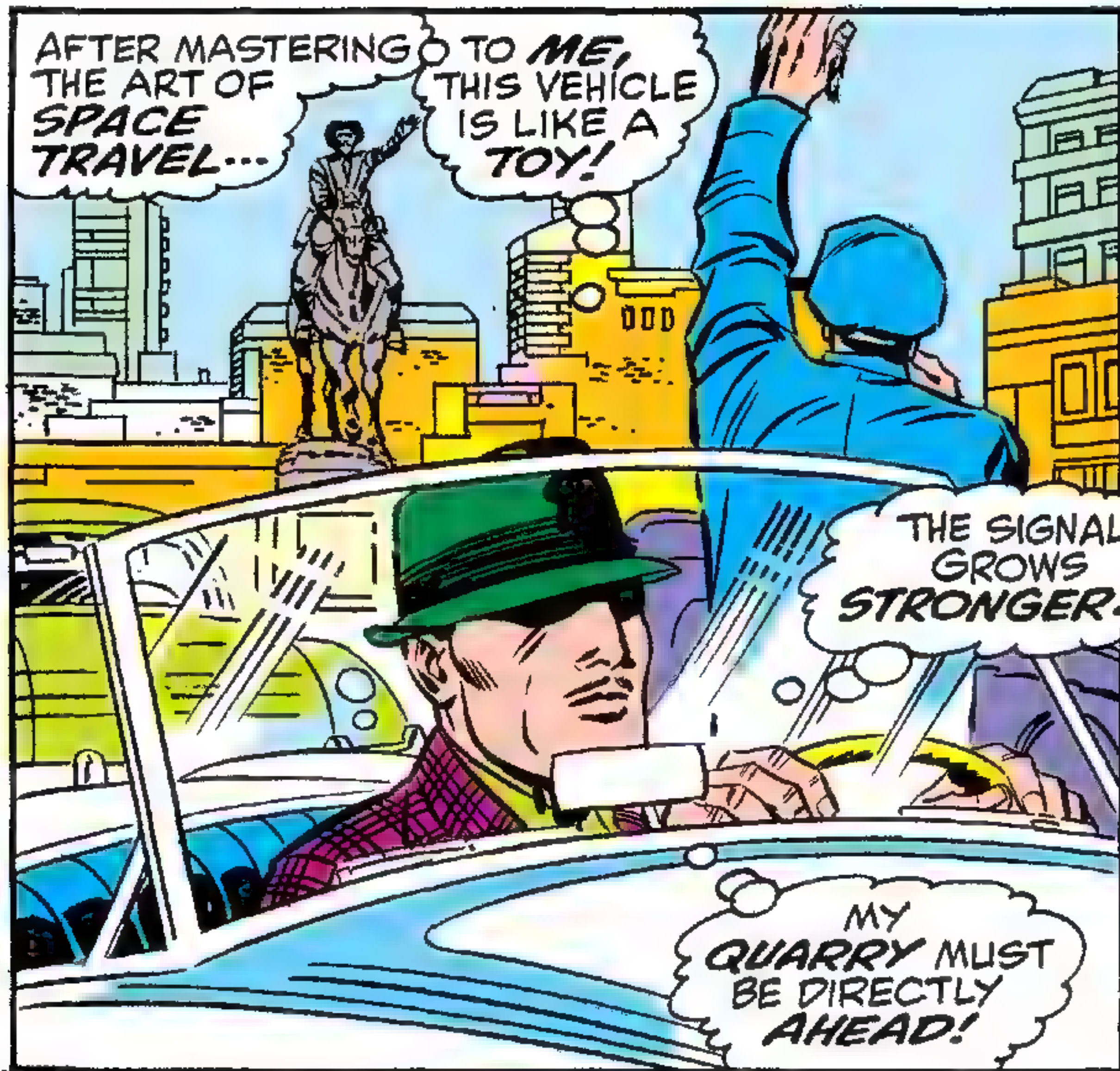
IT'S ALL OVER NOW, SUE!

TRY TO PUT IT OUT OF YOUR MIND, DEAR... LIKE A BAD DREAM!

I KNOW WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A HOME... FOR US... AND THE BABY!

BUT WE'LL FIND ANOTHER... A FAR BETTER ONE, SOON, MY DARLING!







ONCE AGAIN, I MUST
WILL MY SYNTHETIC
FEATURES TO
UNDERGO A SWIFT
CHANGE...

FOR, DANGEROUS
AS THE
POWERFUL THING
MAY BE...

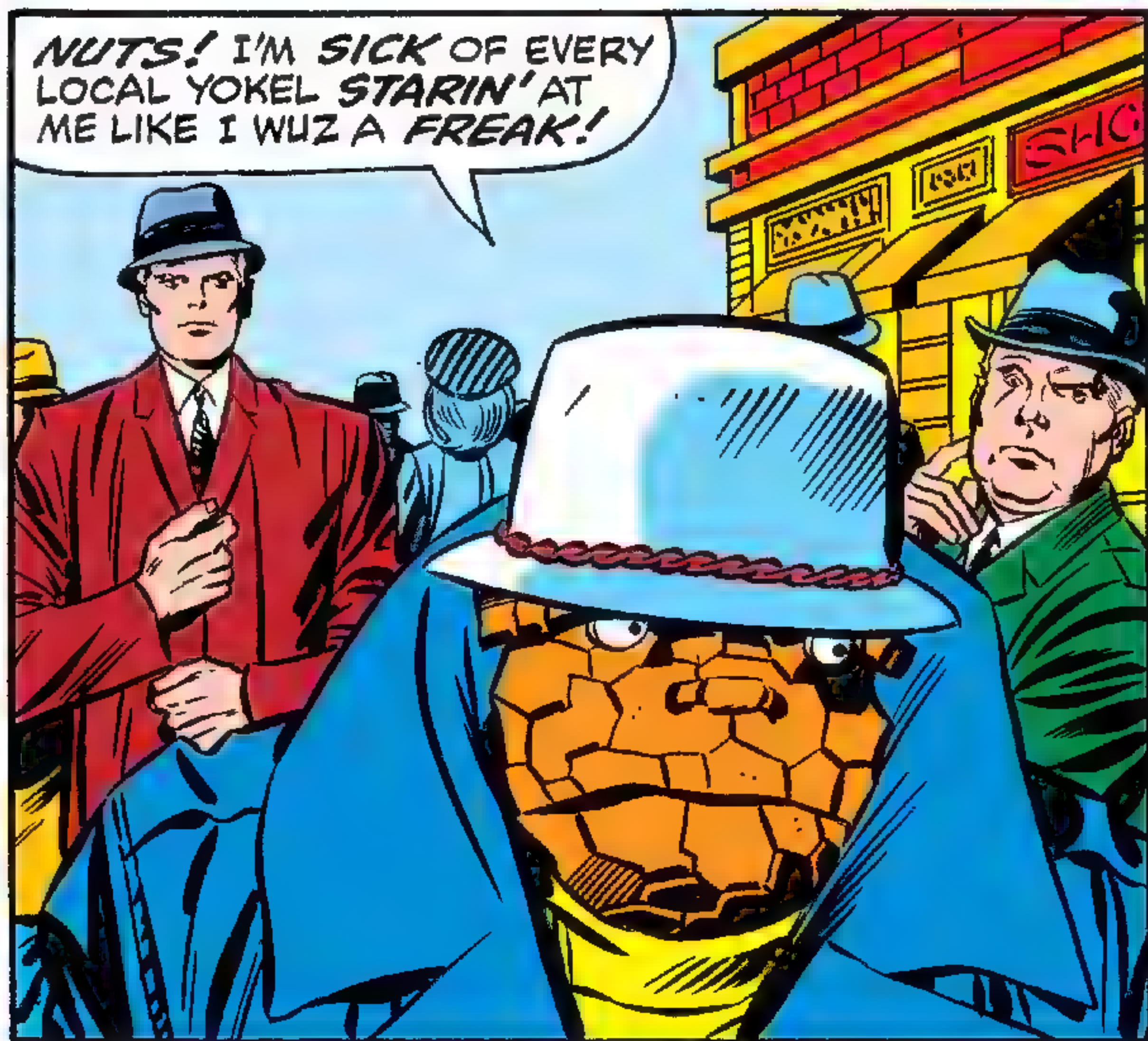


I CAN THROW HIM
TOTALLY OFF-
GUARD...

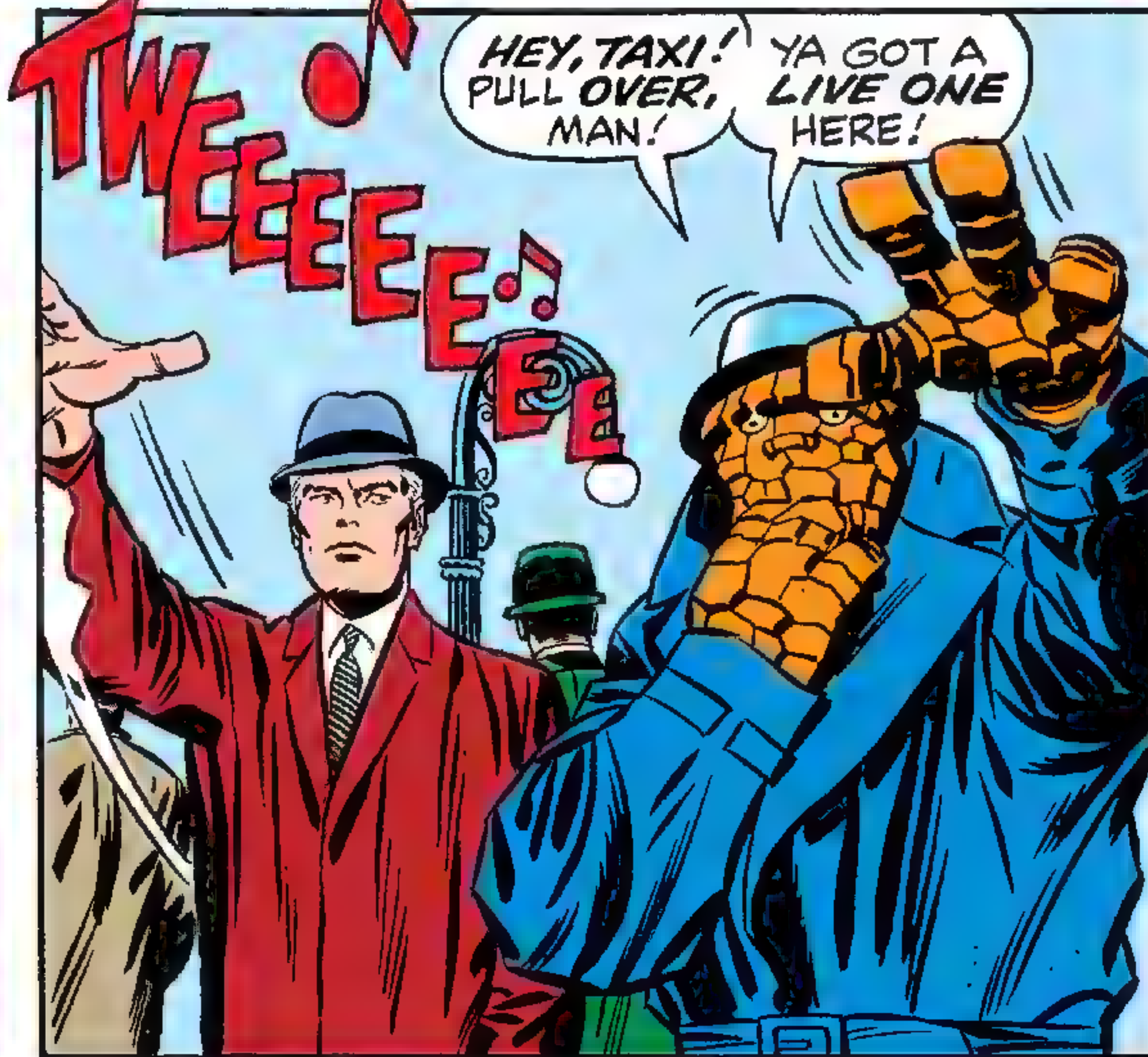


... BY POSING AS
SOMEONE WHOM HE
KNOWS... AND
TRUSTS!

AND SO...
THE HUNT
BEGINS!



NUTS! I'M SICK OF EVERY
LOCAL YOKEL STARIN' AT
ME LIKE I WUZ A FREAK!



HEY, TAXI!
PULL OVER,
MAN!

YA GOT A
LIVE ONE
HERE!



FADE OUT,
MAC! I CALLED
'IM FIRST...

HEY! I THOUGHT
YA WUZ AT THE
HOUSE WITH
SUE!

I HAD
TO LEAVE
FAST,
BEN!

SOMETHING
CAME UP!
WE NEED
YOU!

OH
NO YA
DON'T...

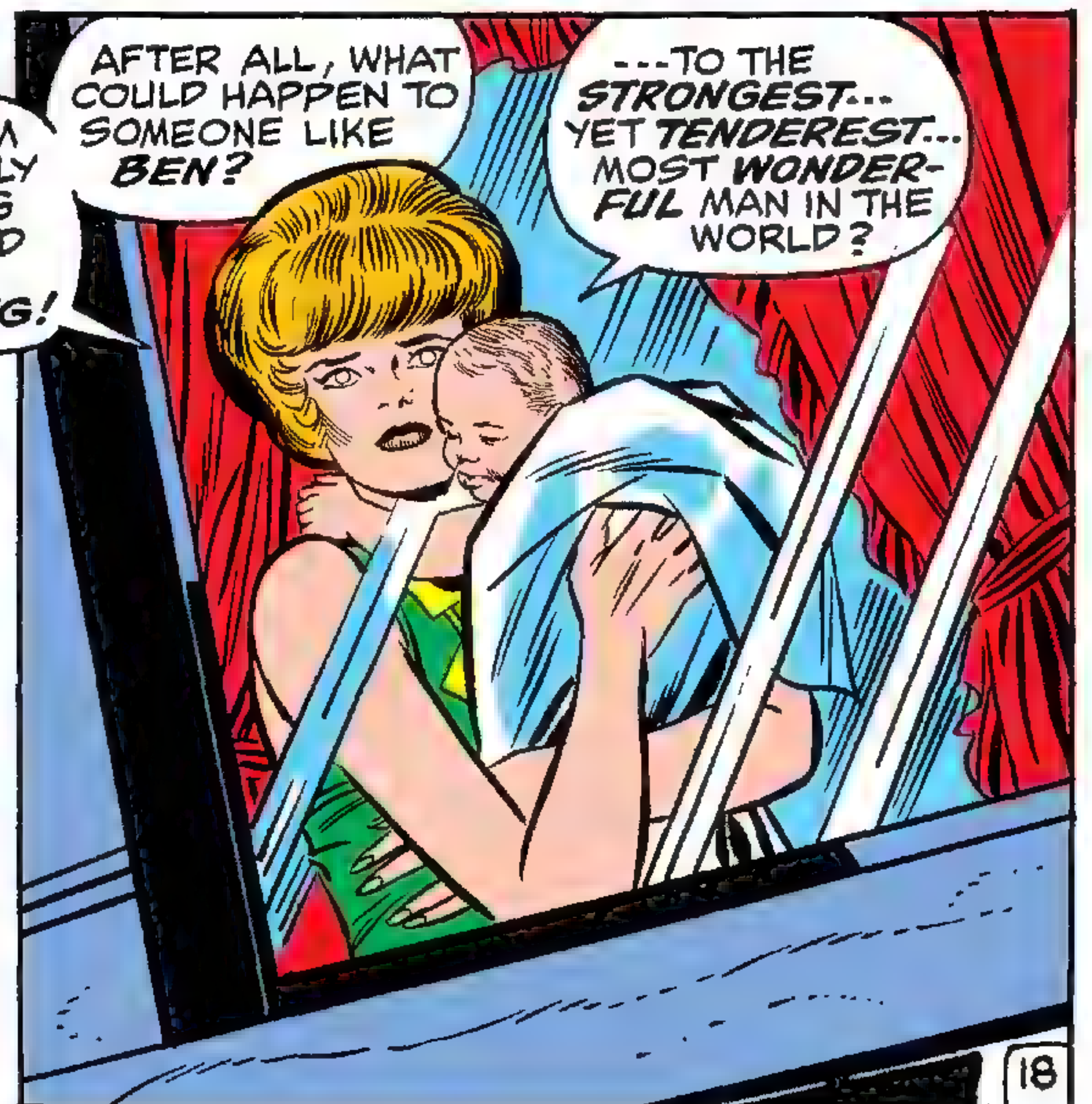
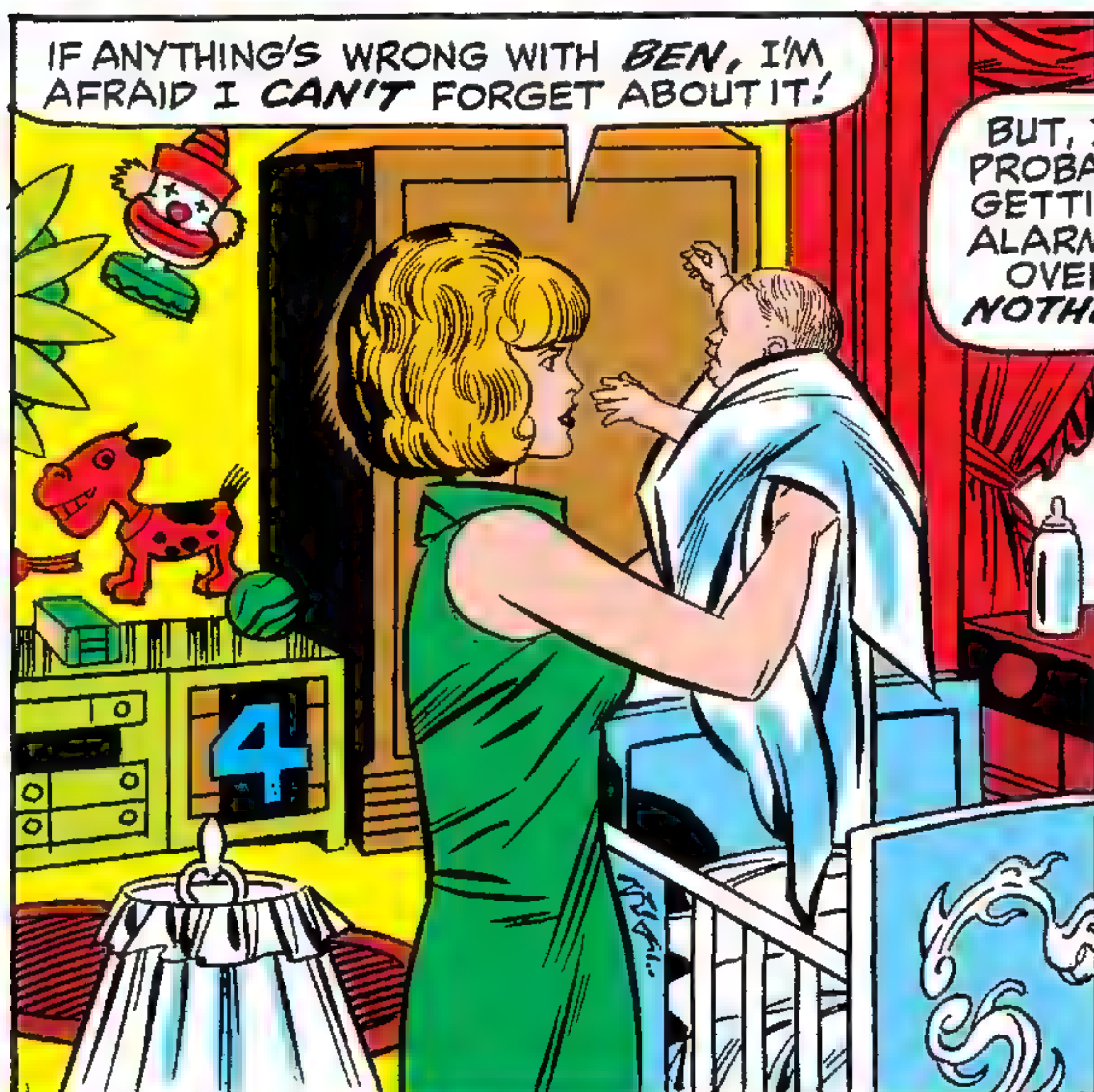
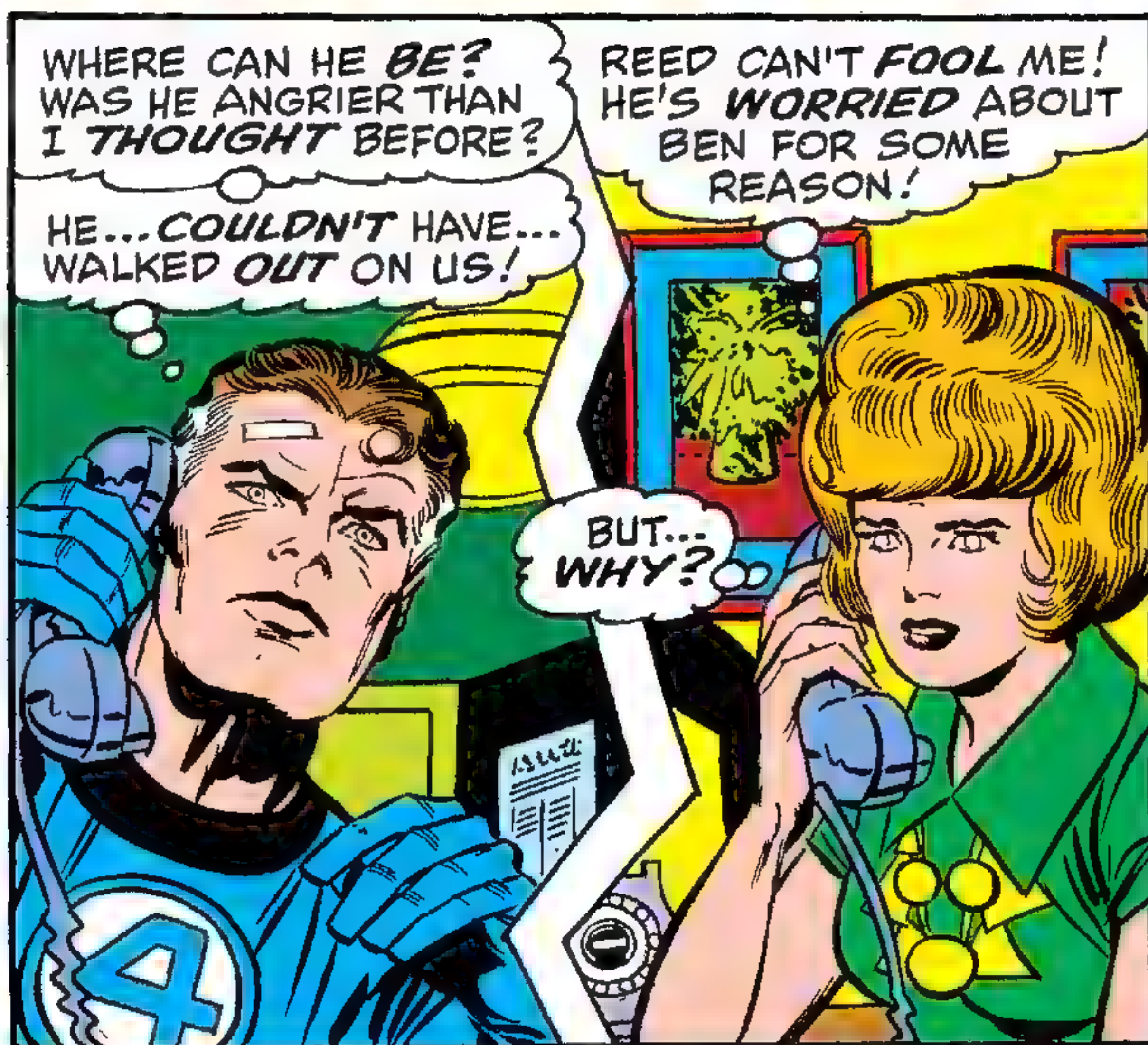
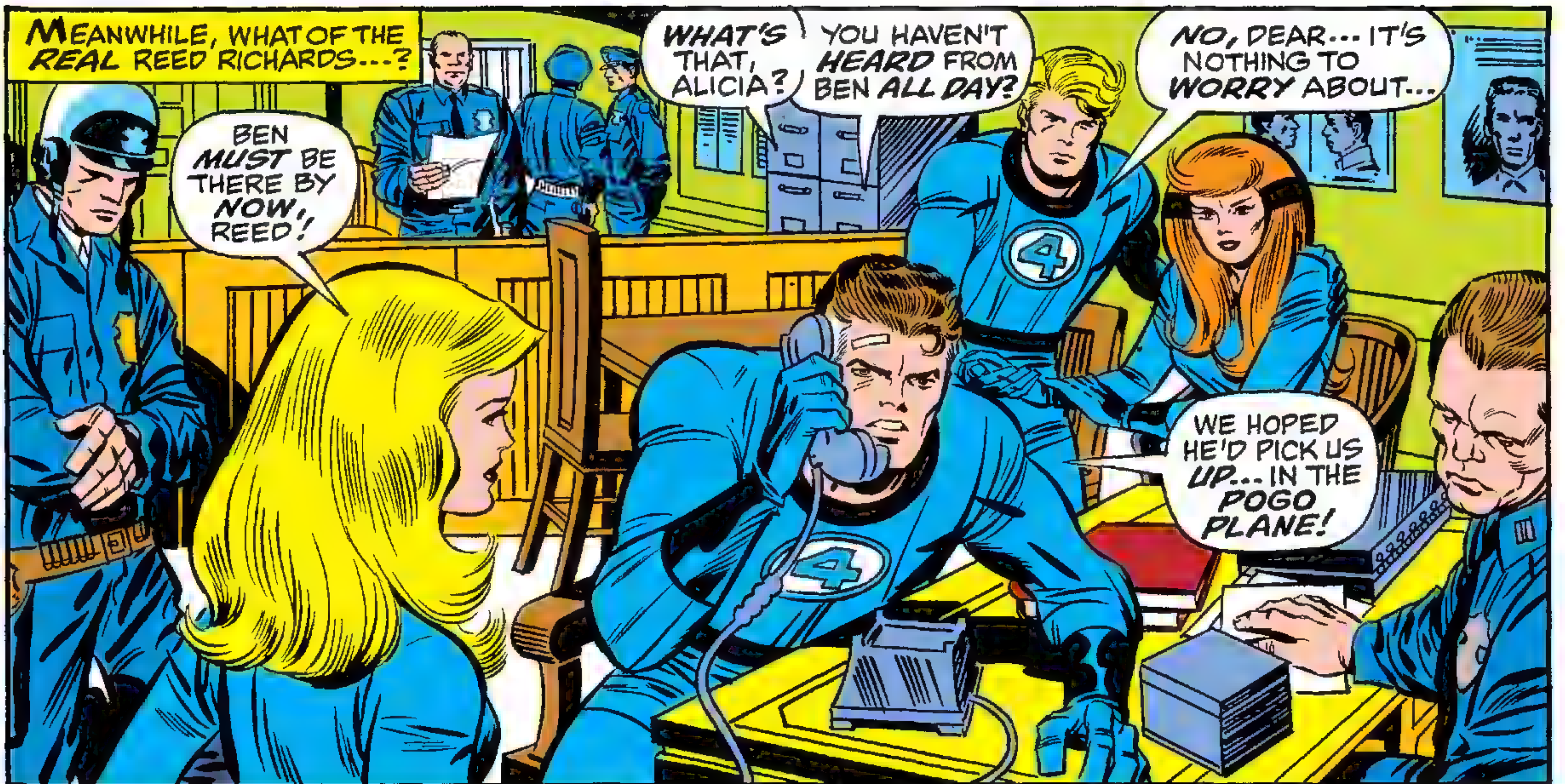


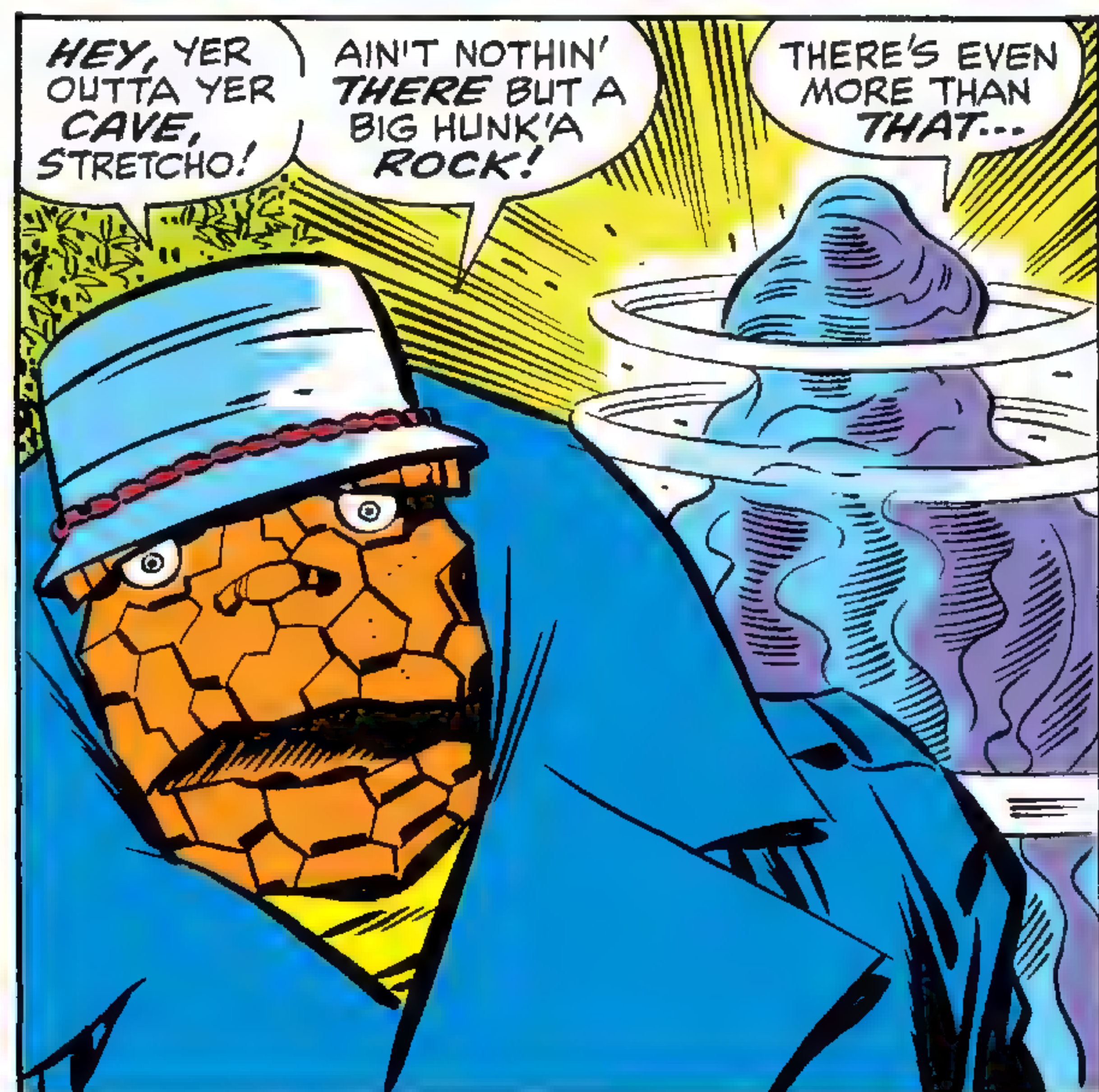
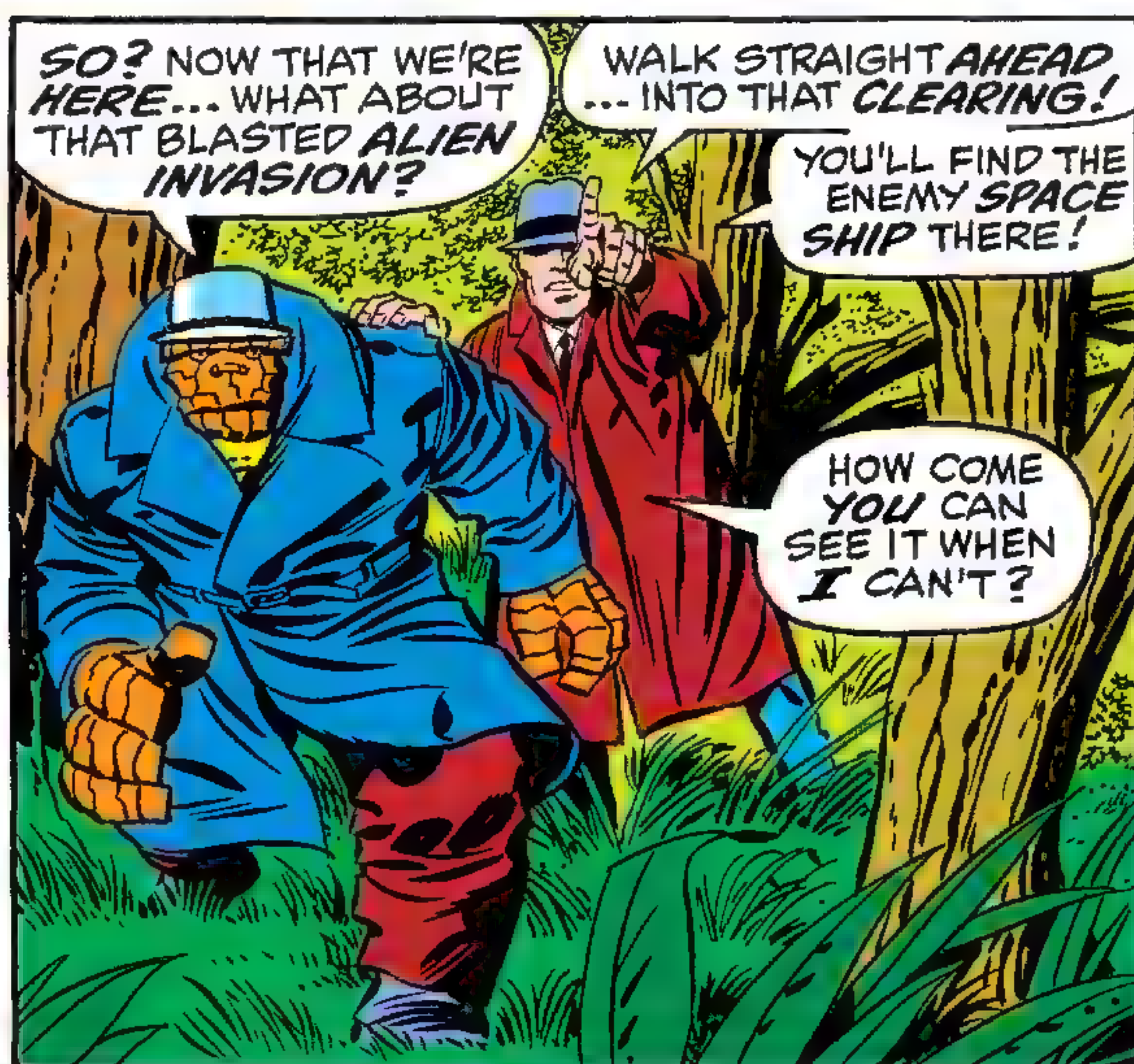
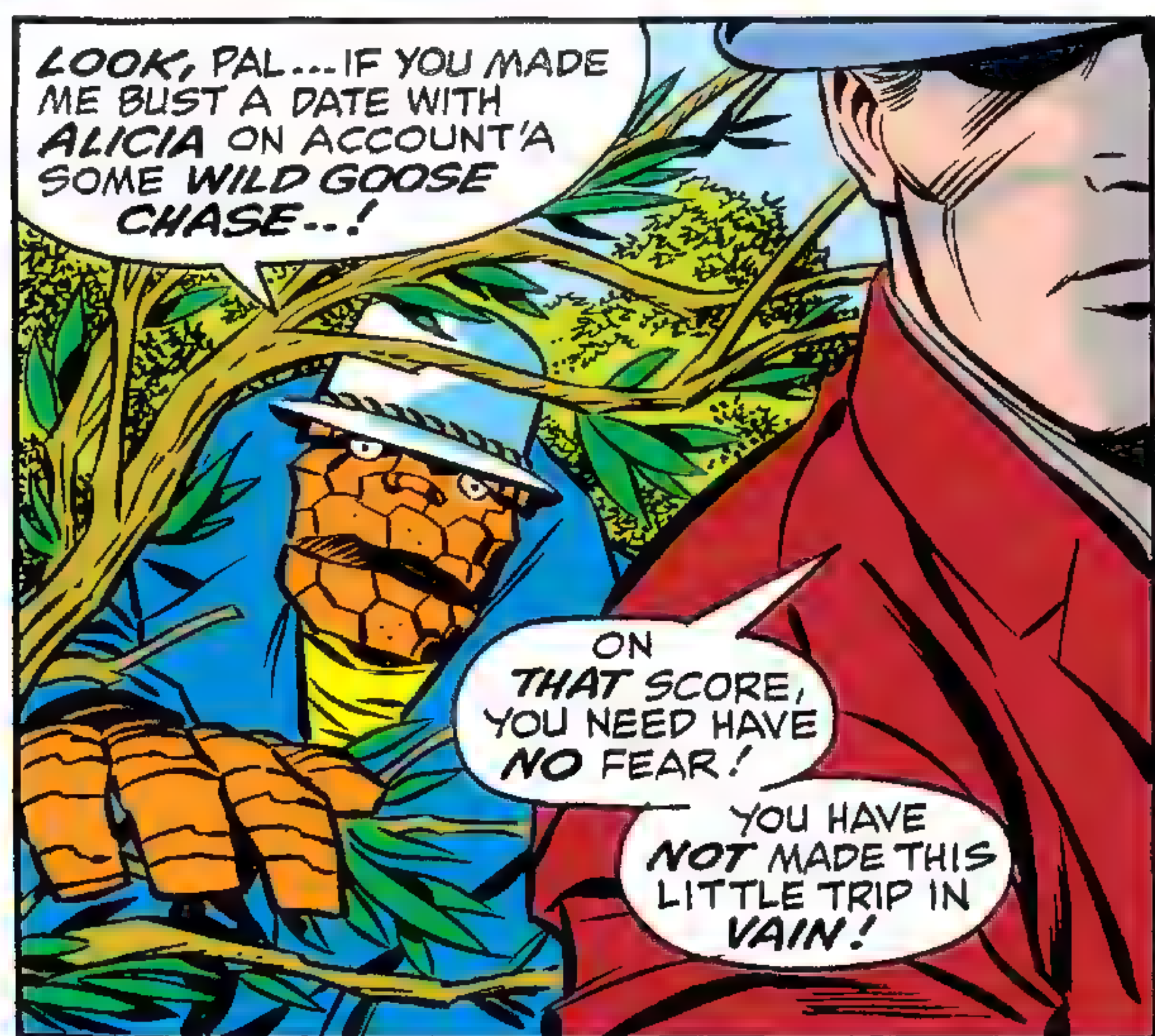
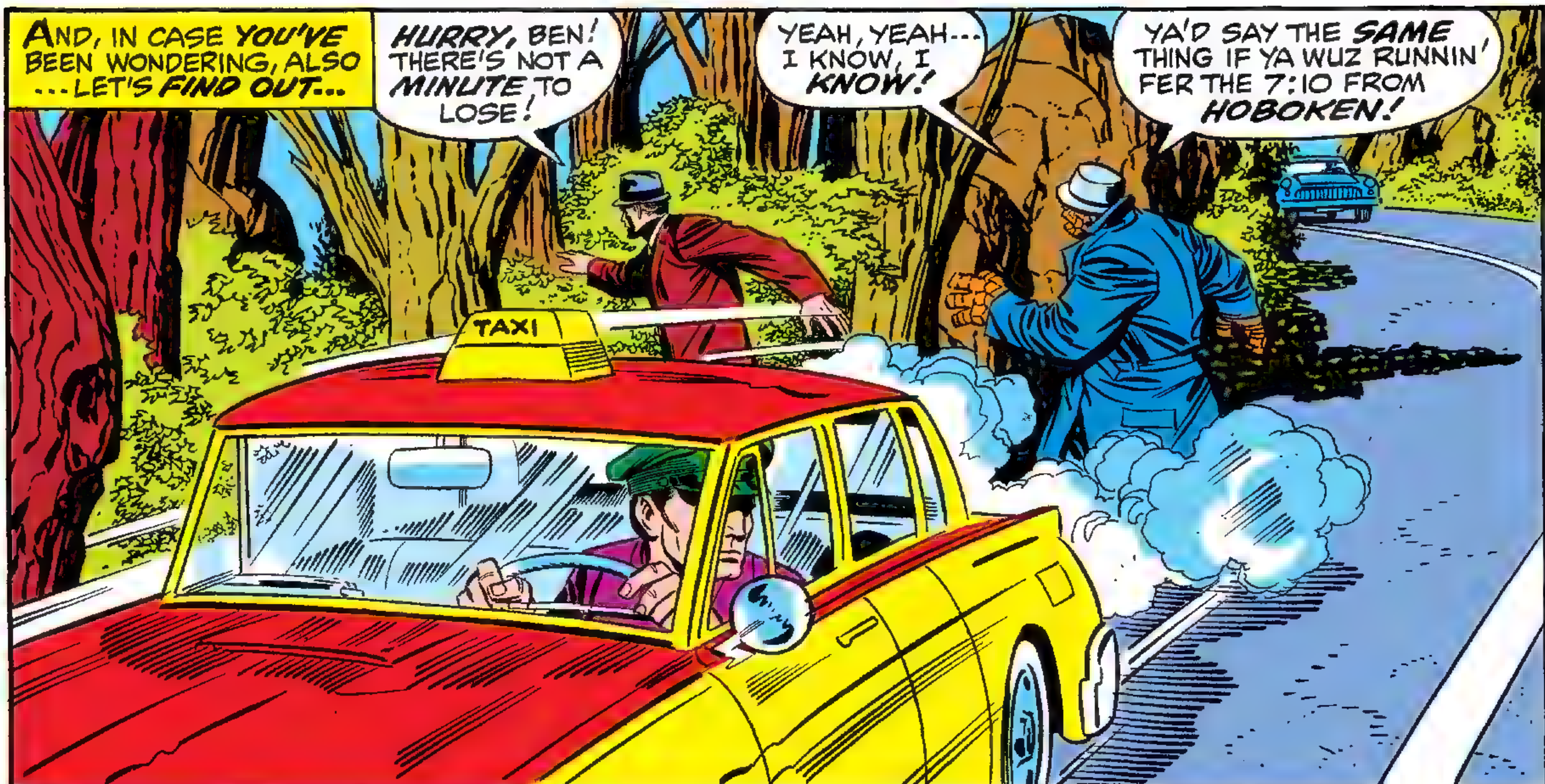
I'M ON MY
WAY TO SEE
ALICIA...

AND I AIN'T
STOPPIN' FER
NOTHIN'!

BEN! THIS
IS LIFE OR
DEATH!

IT'S AN
INVASION
FROM
OUTER
SPACE!





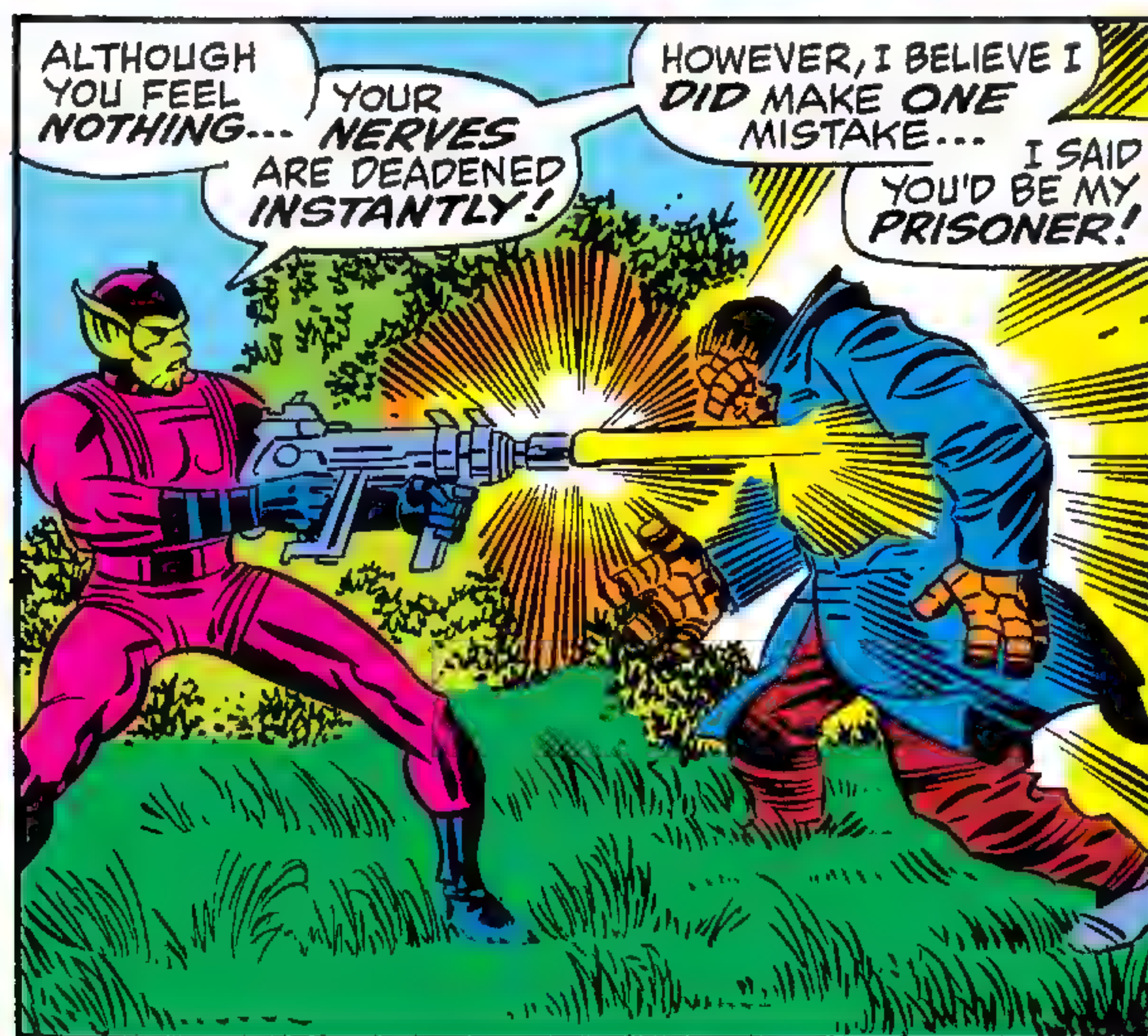


NOT IF *I* GOT ANYTHING TA SAY ABOUT IT!

THE PITY IS... YOU *DON'T*!



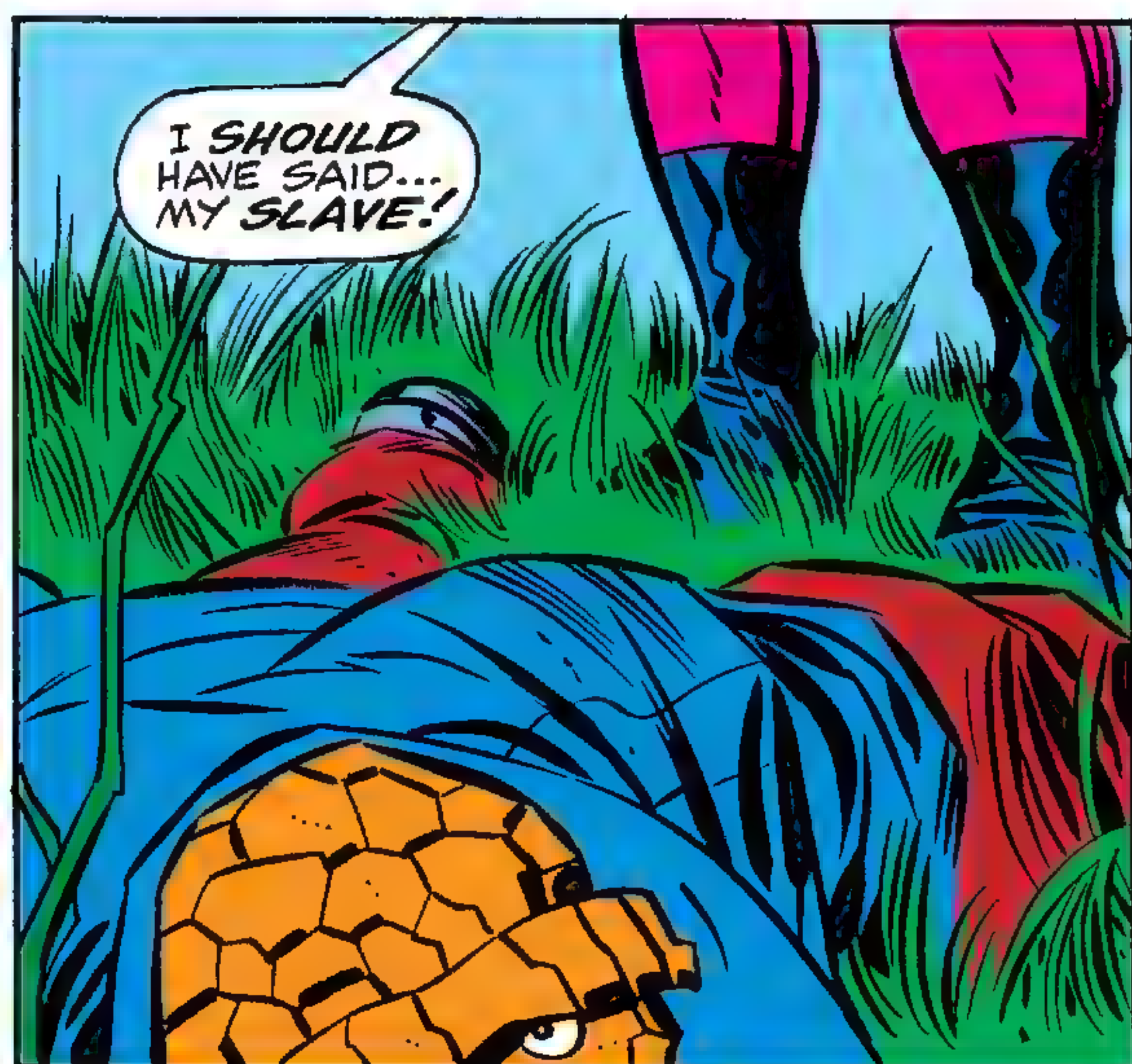
...THANKS TO THE WAY MY NERVE GUN GROWS!



ALTHOUGH YOU FEEL NOTHING...

YOUR NERVES ARE DEADENED INSTANTLY!

HOWEVER, I BELIEVE I DID MAKE ONE MISTAKE... I SAID YOU'D BE MY PRISONER!

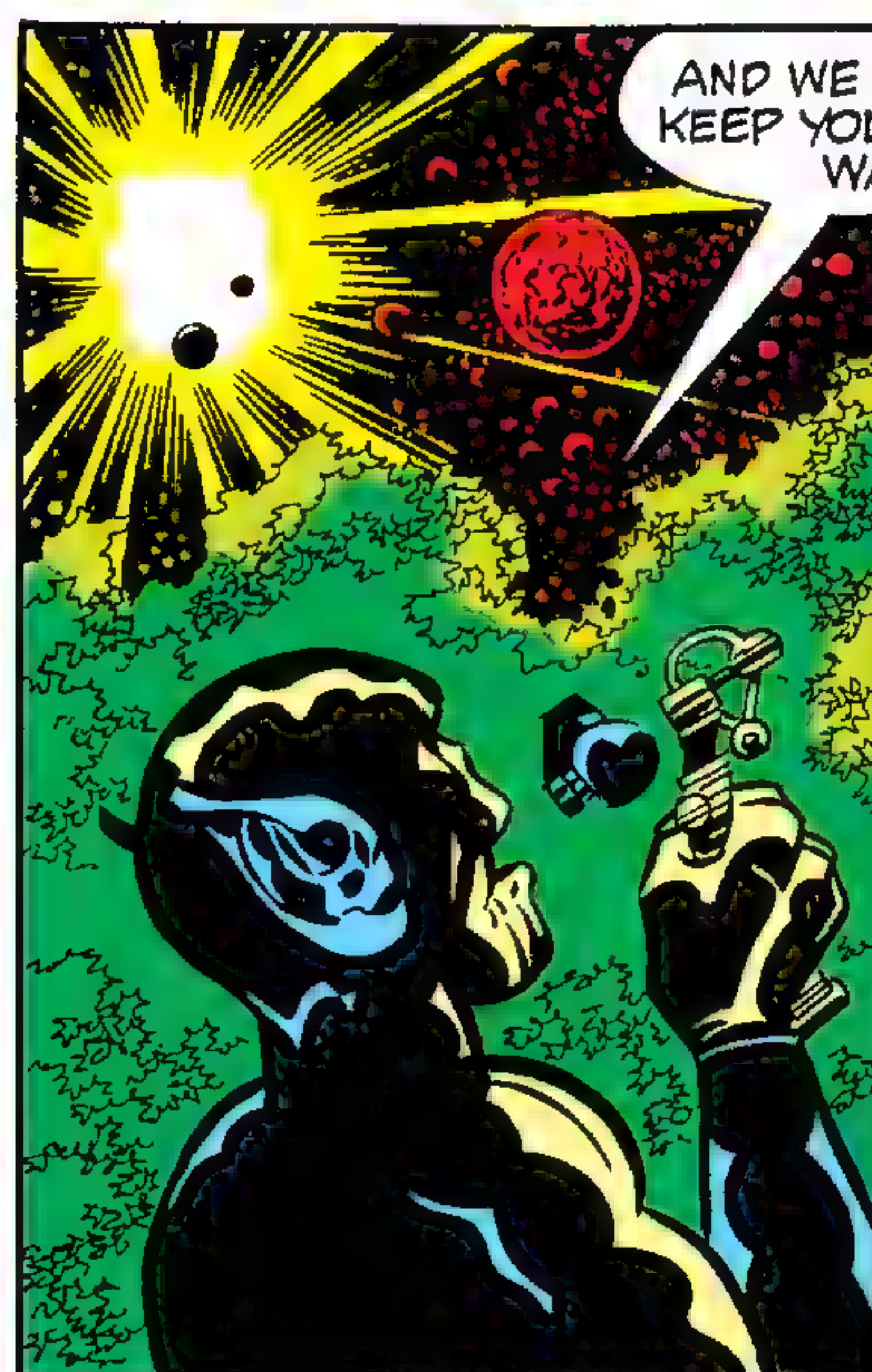


I SHOULD HAVE SAID... MY SLAVE!



NOW, IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO LEAVE THIS PLANET...

FOR THE GREAT GAMES ARE SOON ABOUT TO START!



AND WE MUST NOT KEEP YOUR MASTERS WAITING!



NEXT BEN GRIMM SLAVE!

FANTASTIC
FOUR

15¢
©

91
OCT

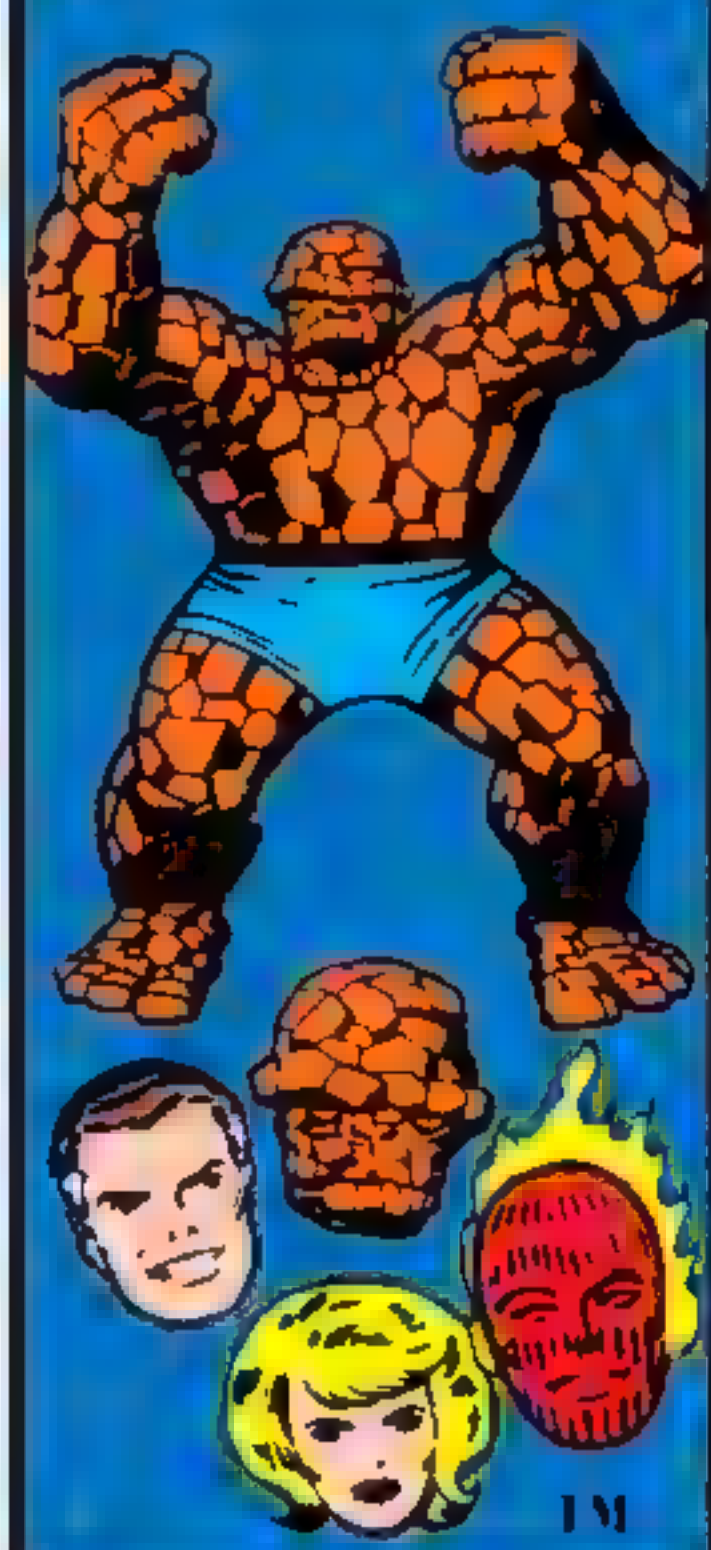
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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

Fantastic FOUR

THING
ENSLAVED!

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP



THE F.F.'S RANKS ARE FINALLY BROKEN WHEN WE FIND...

THE THING... ENSLAVED!

UNWRINKLE YOUR FURROWED BROW, BELIEVER! THIS STORY REALLY **DOES** CONTINUE FROM LAST ISH! IT **ISN'T** A SCENE FROM THE **UNTOUCHABLES!** YOU'RE ACTUALLY UPON ANOTHER **PLANET!** REMEMBER... IN MARVELDOM, THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS WHAT THEY **SEEM**----

IS **THAT** THE SLAVE YOU'RE BUYING FOR THE COMING **GAMES, BOSS?**

SKRULL SLAVE PRICE LIST
NAME: BEN GRIMM
HOME PLANET: EARTH



TYPE: FIGHTER
PRICE: TEN PERFECT
POWER STONES

YEAH! 'CAUSE I SAY HE'S GONNA WIN!

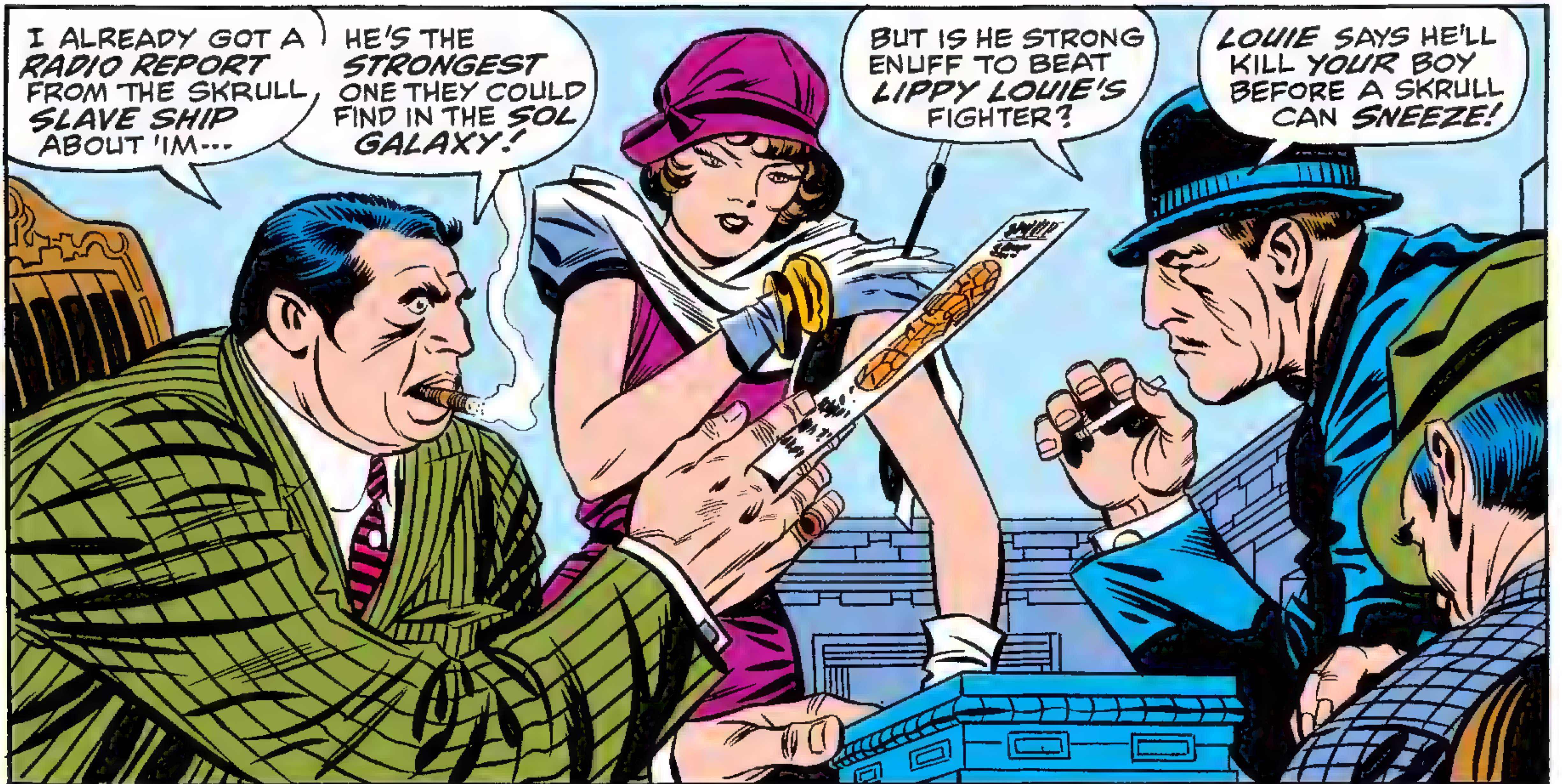
AND **BOSS BARKER** DON'T MAKE **MISTAKES!**

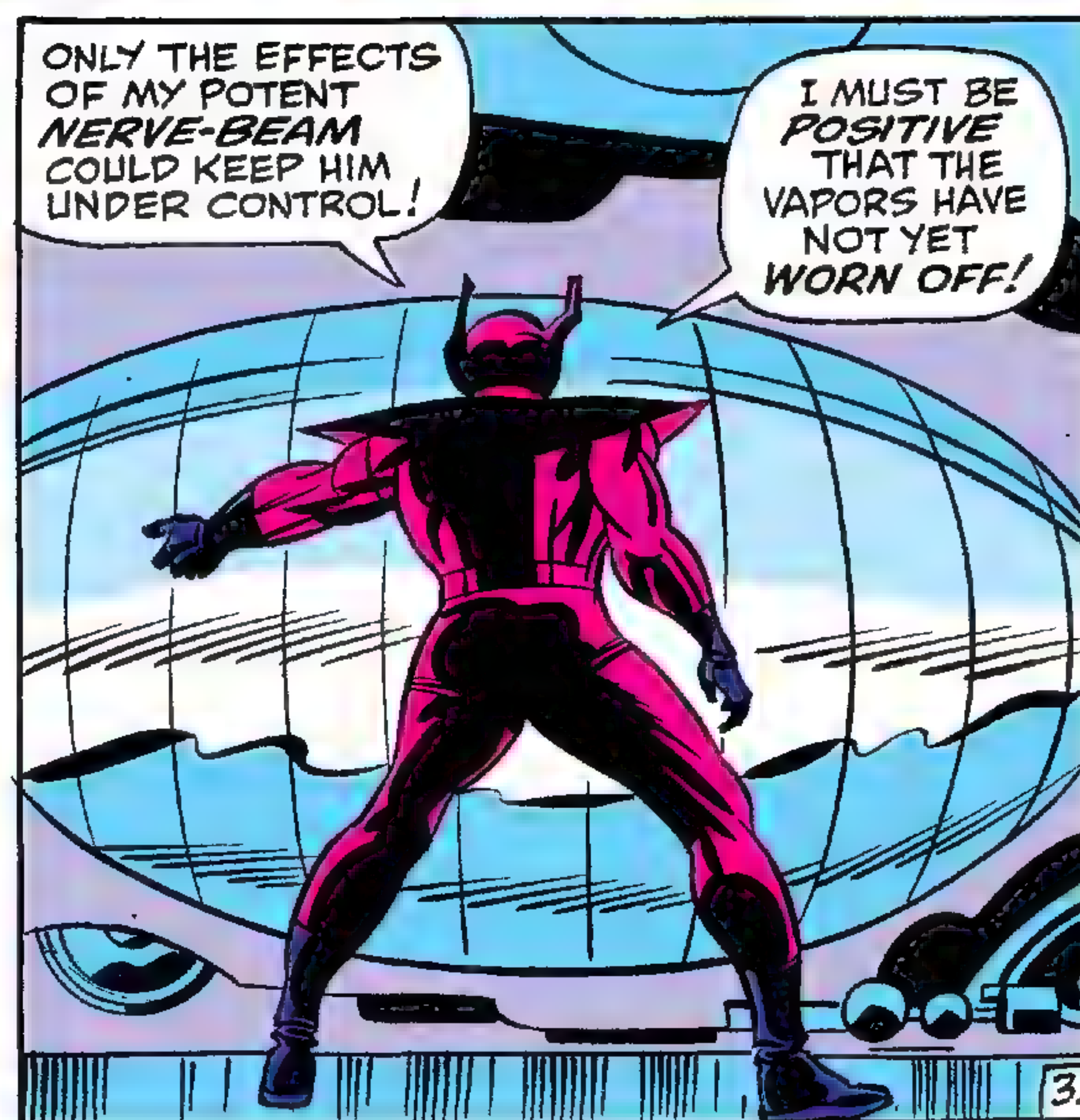
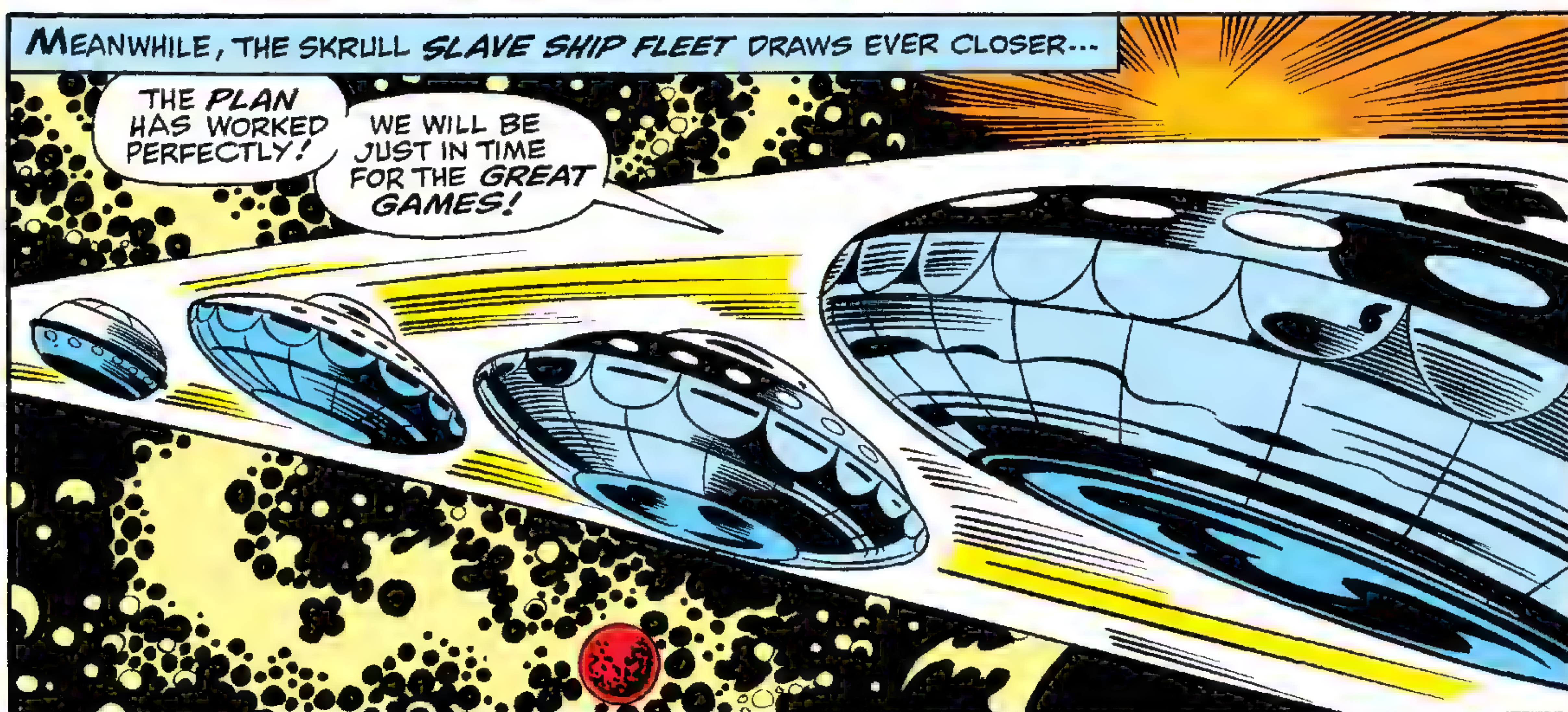
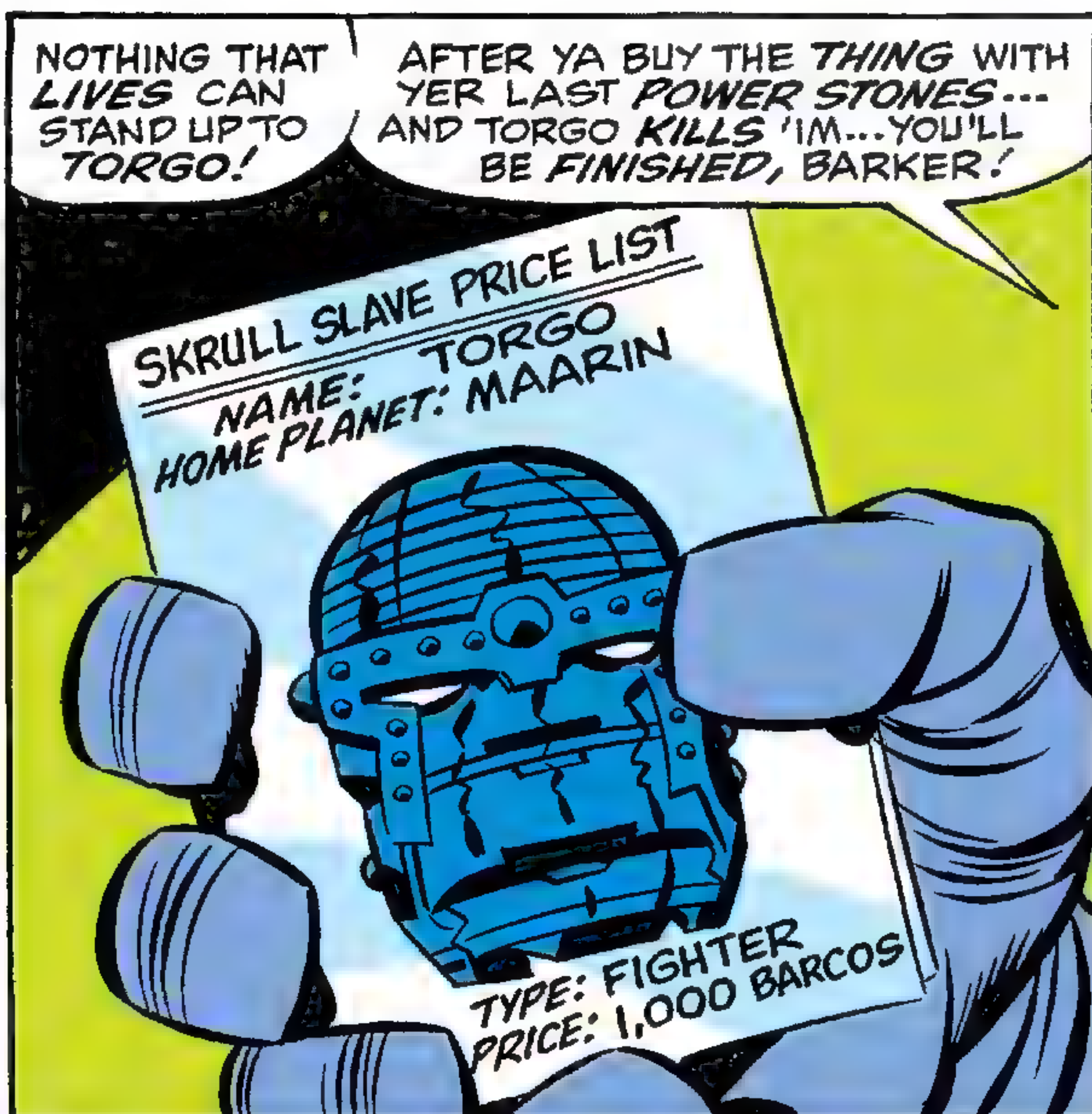
NOT YET
AVAILABLE

UNAVAILABLE

SCRIPT and ART BY:
STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY

INKS: J. SINNOTT... LETTERING: S. ROSEN





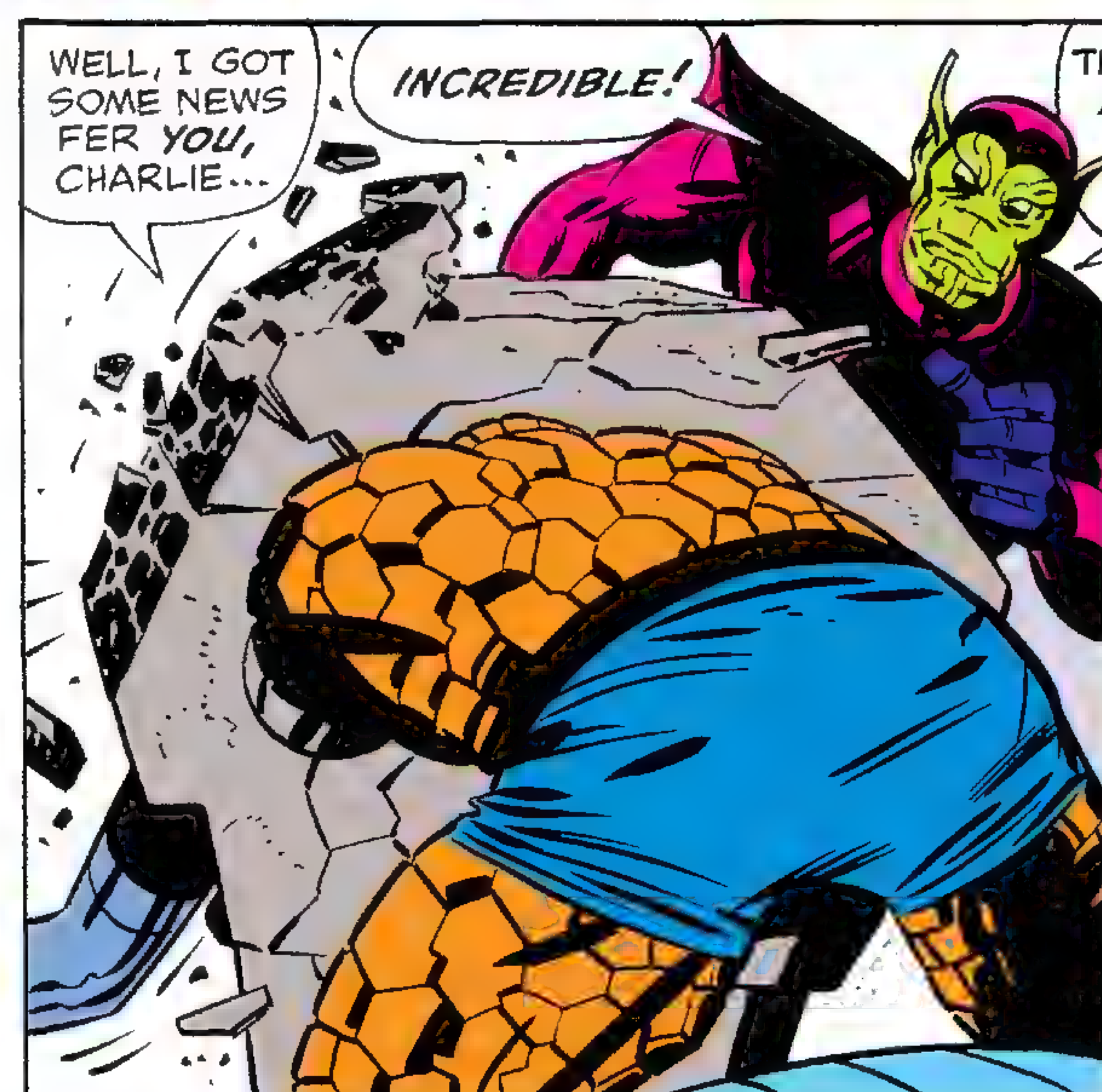
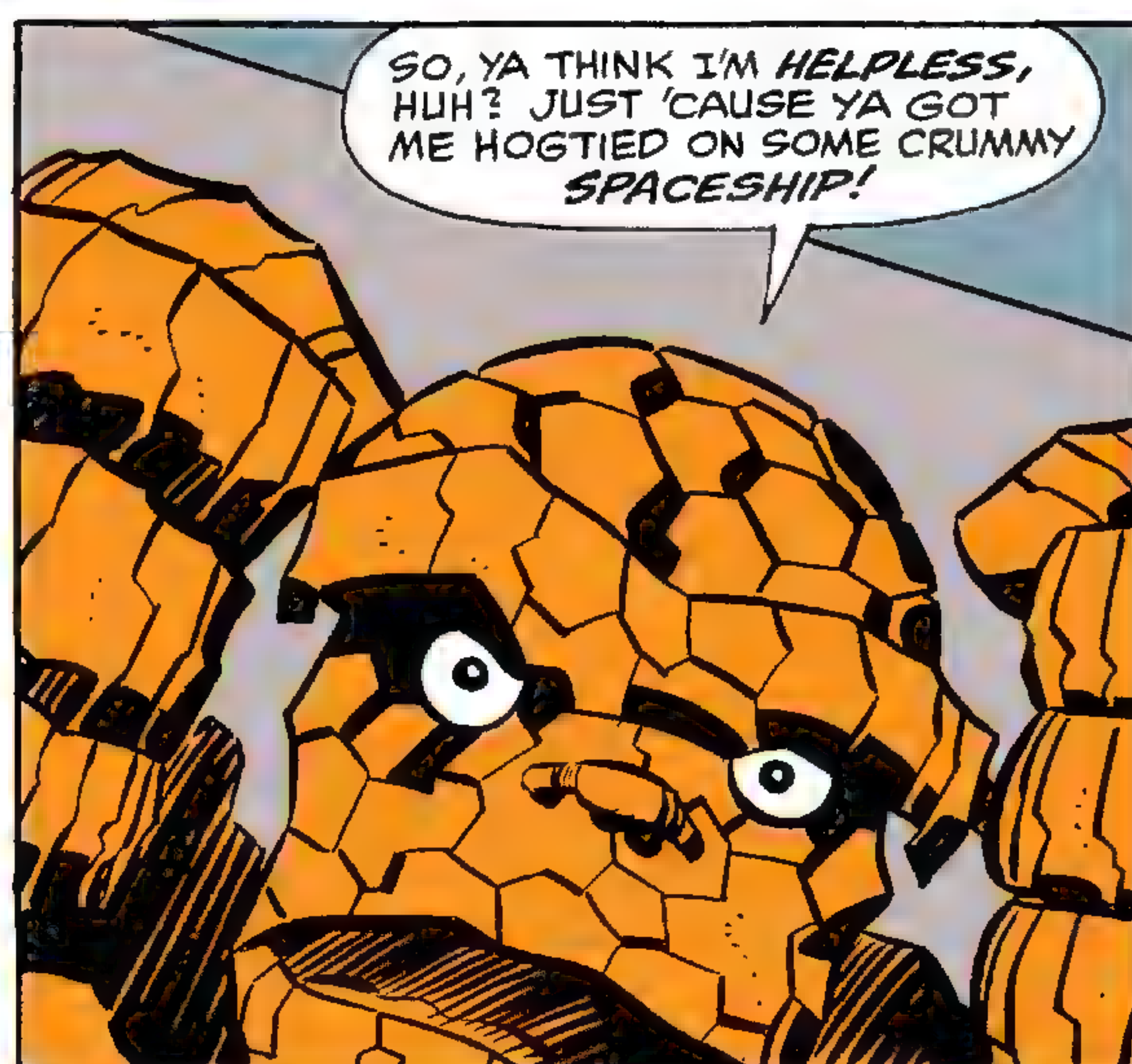
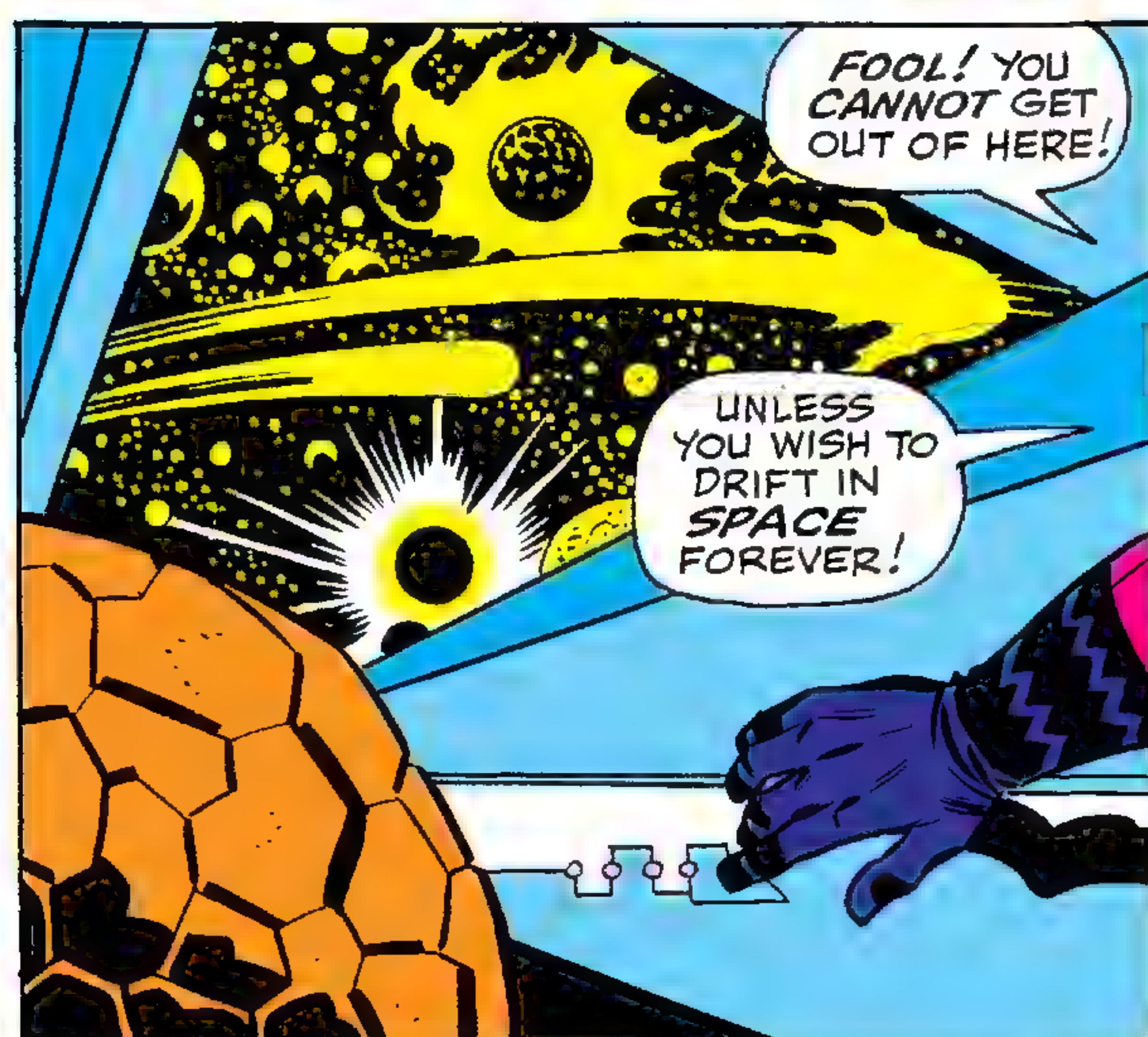
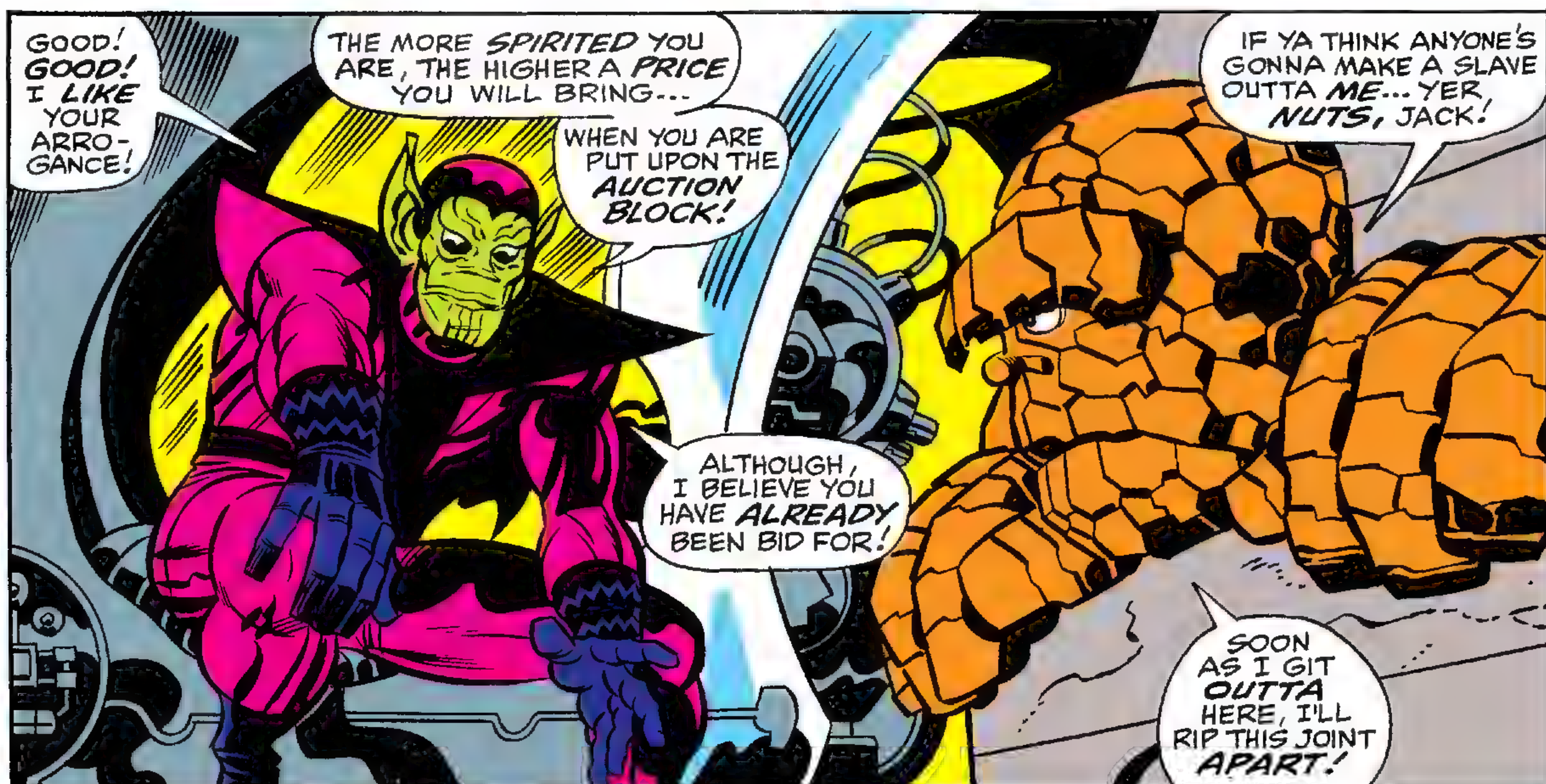
TRULY, YOUR
STRENGTH
IS ALMOST
BEYOND
BELIEF!

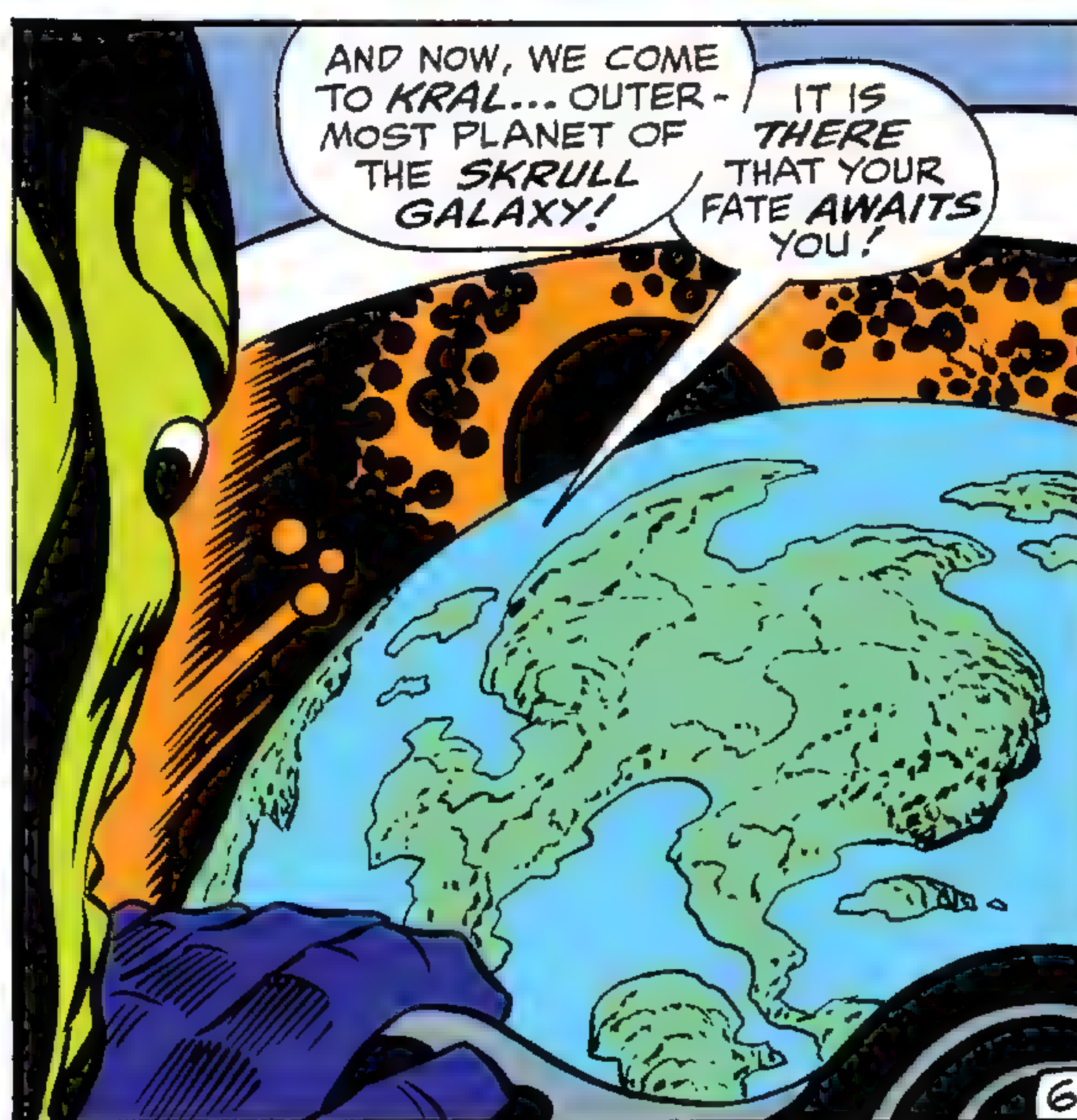
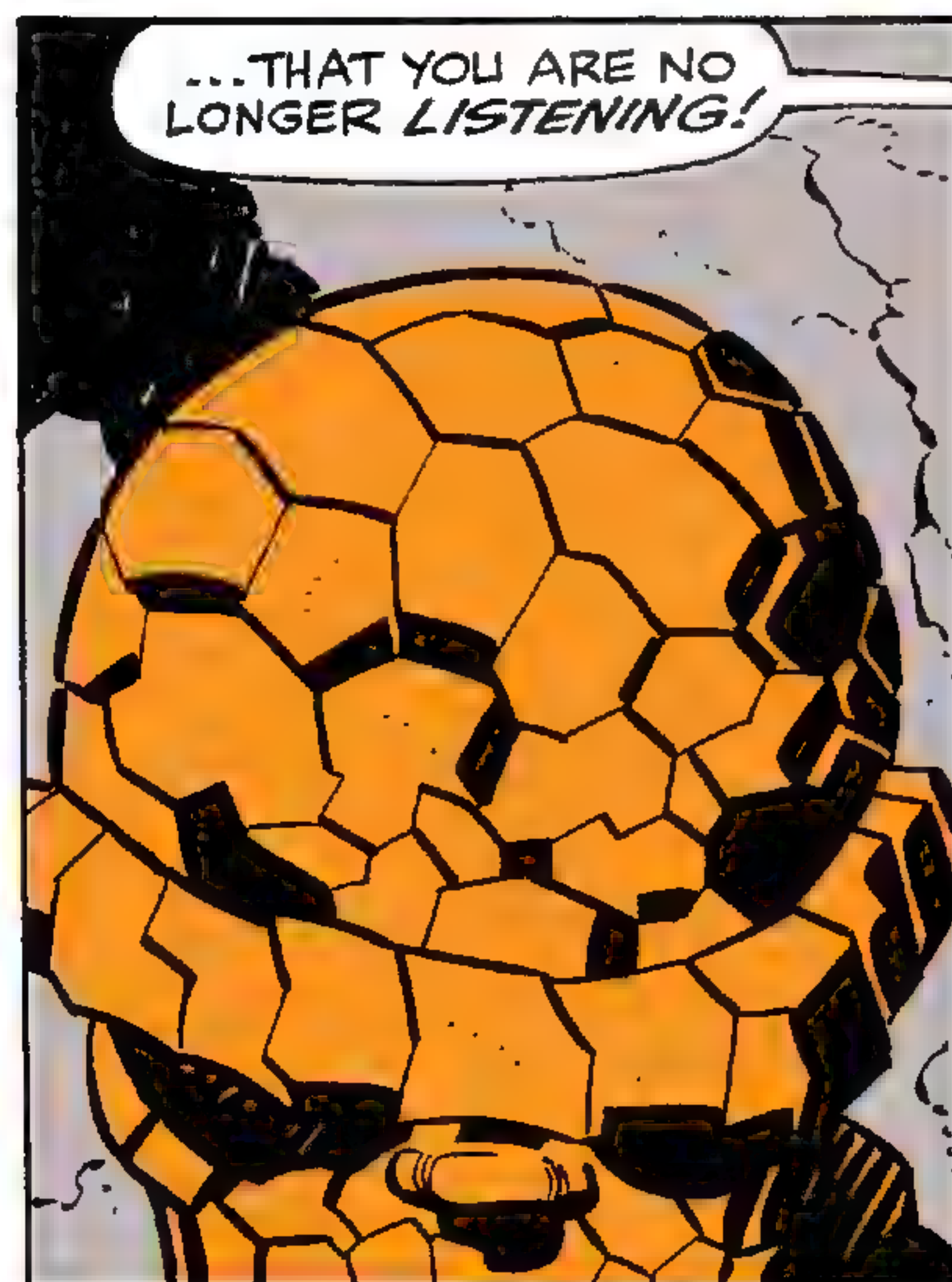
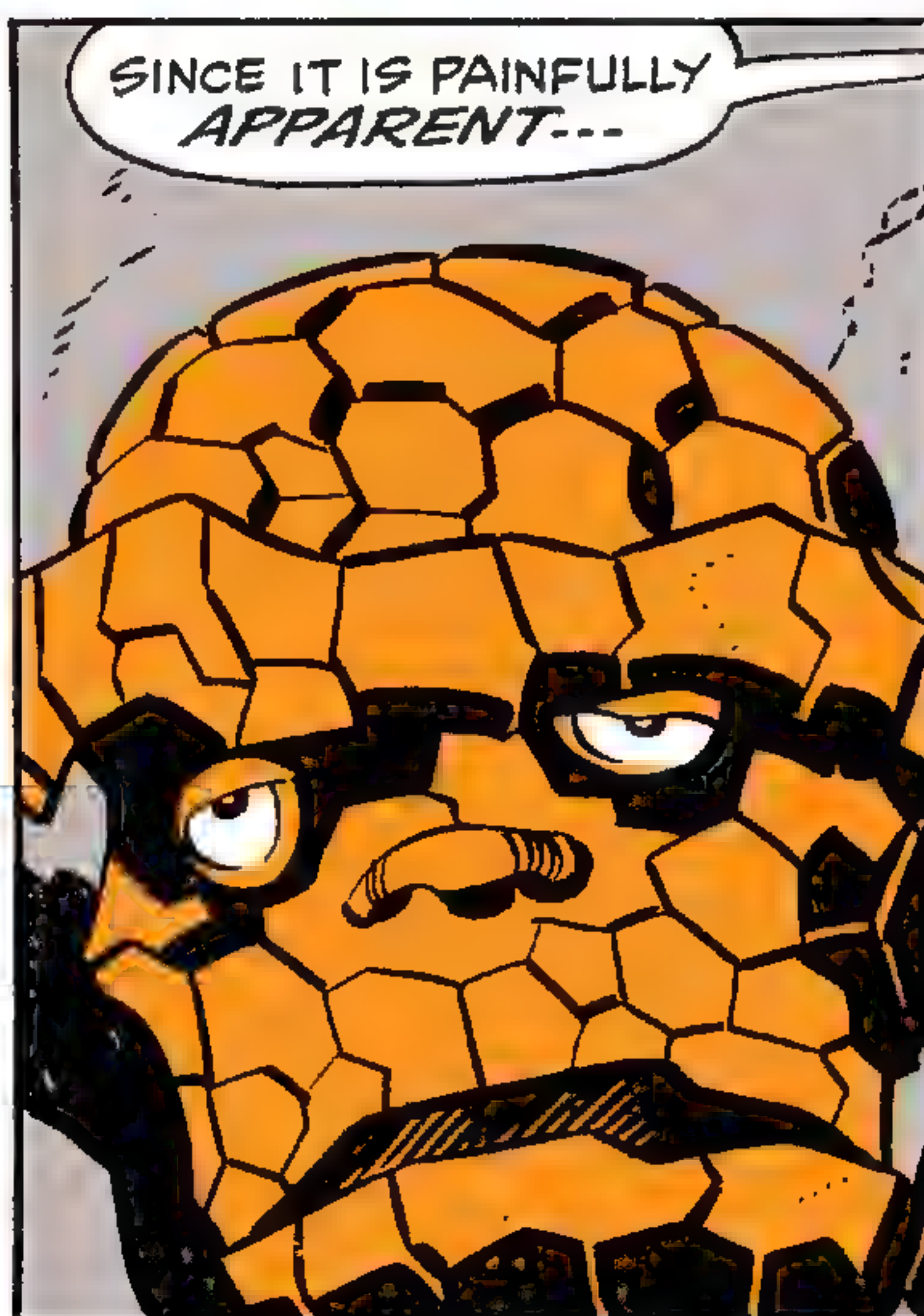
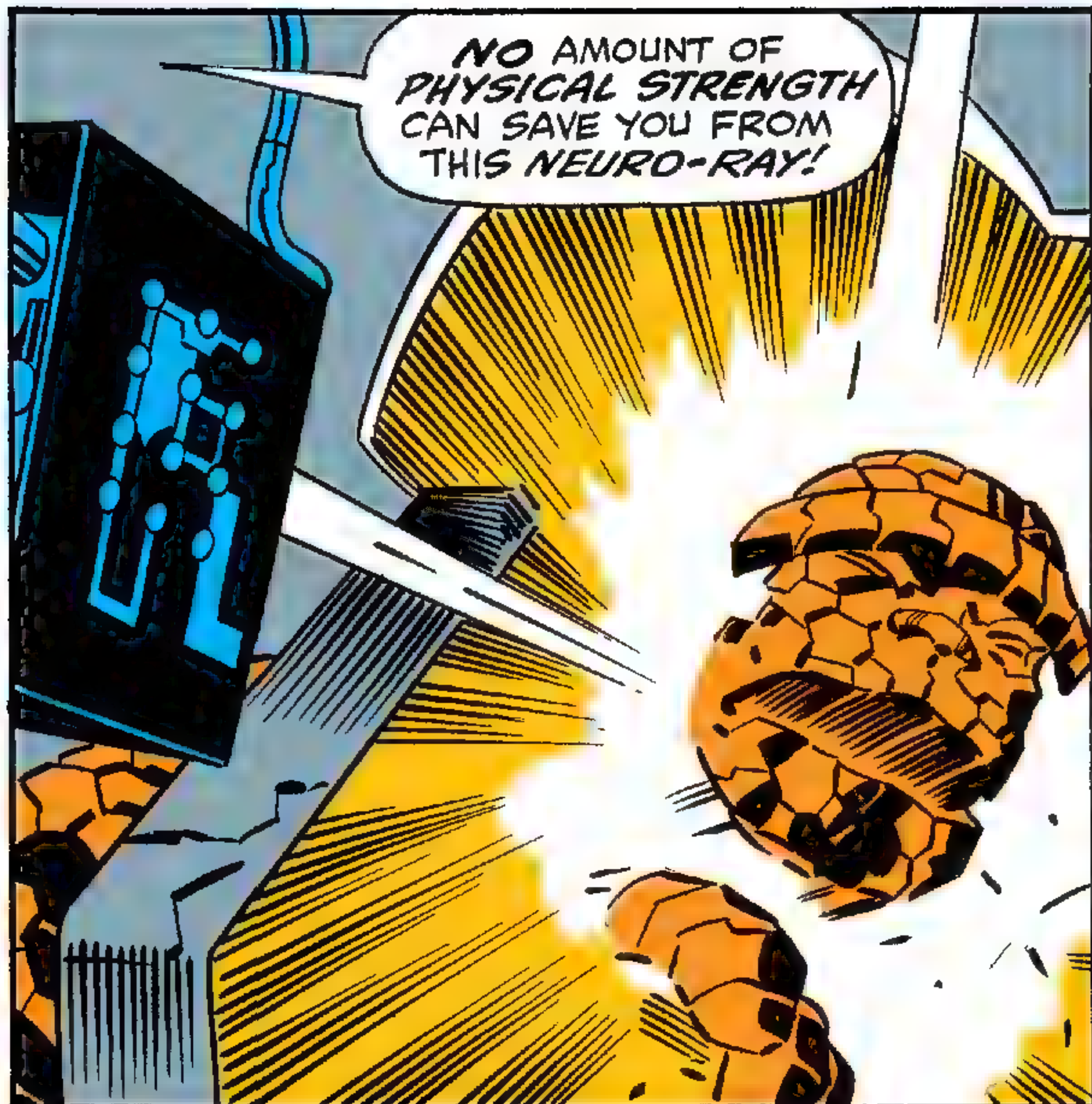
FEW OTHER
CAPTIVE SLAVES
WOULD HAVE
RECOVERED
CONSCIOUSNESS
SO SOON!

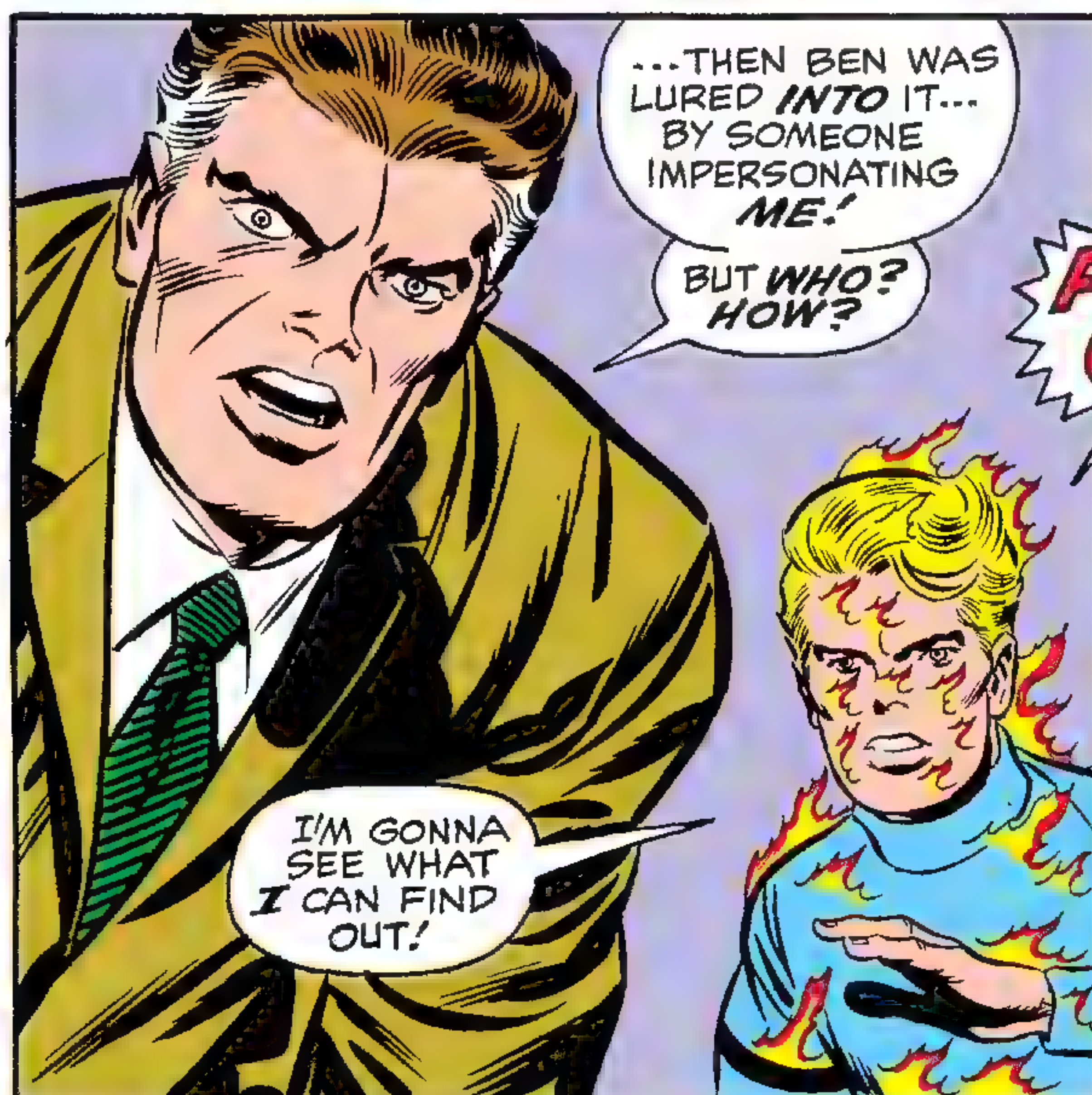
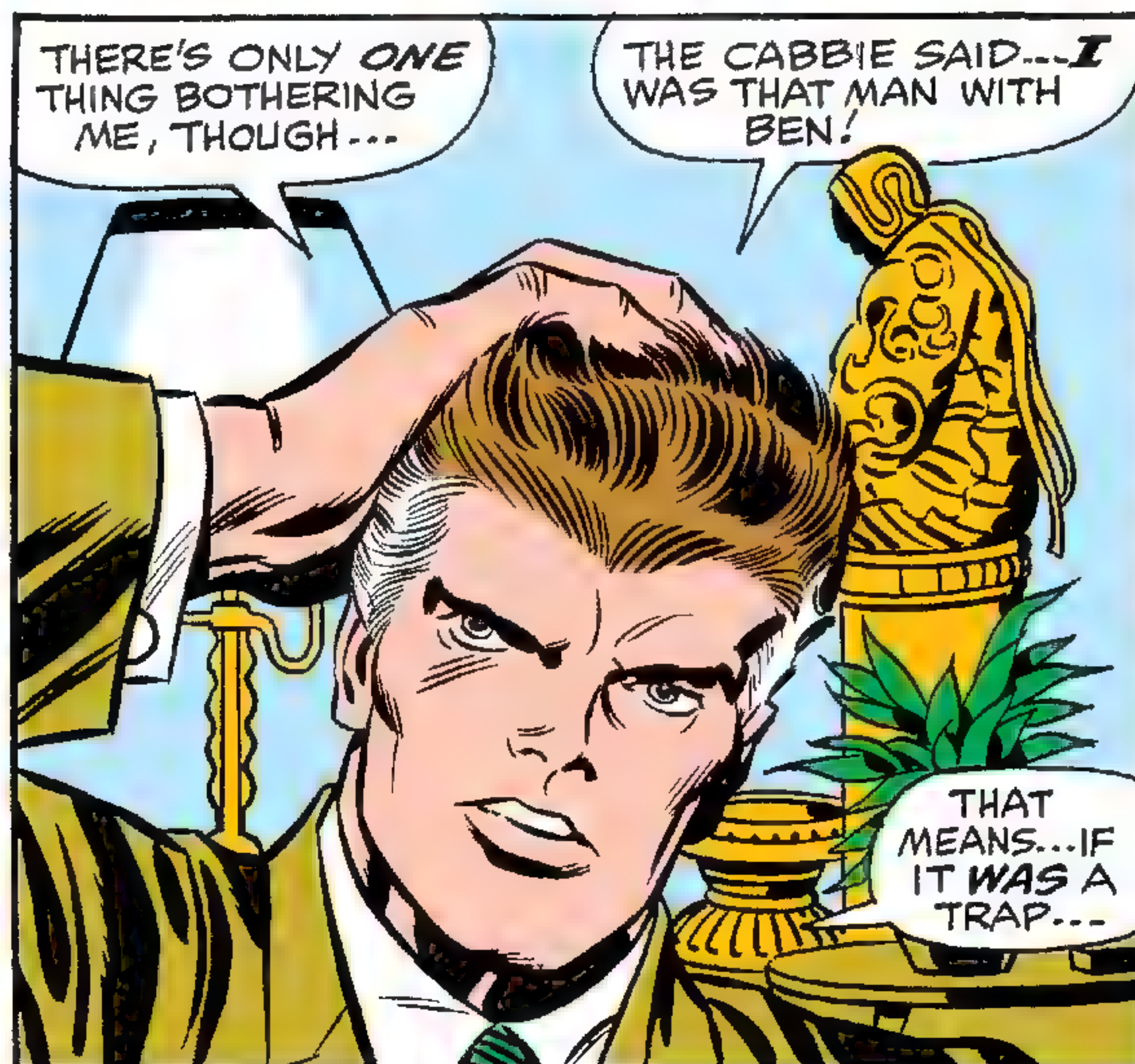
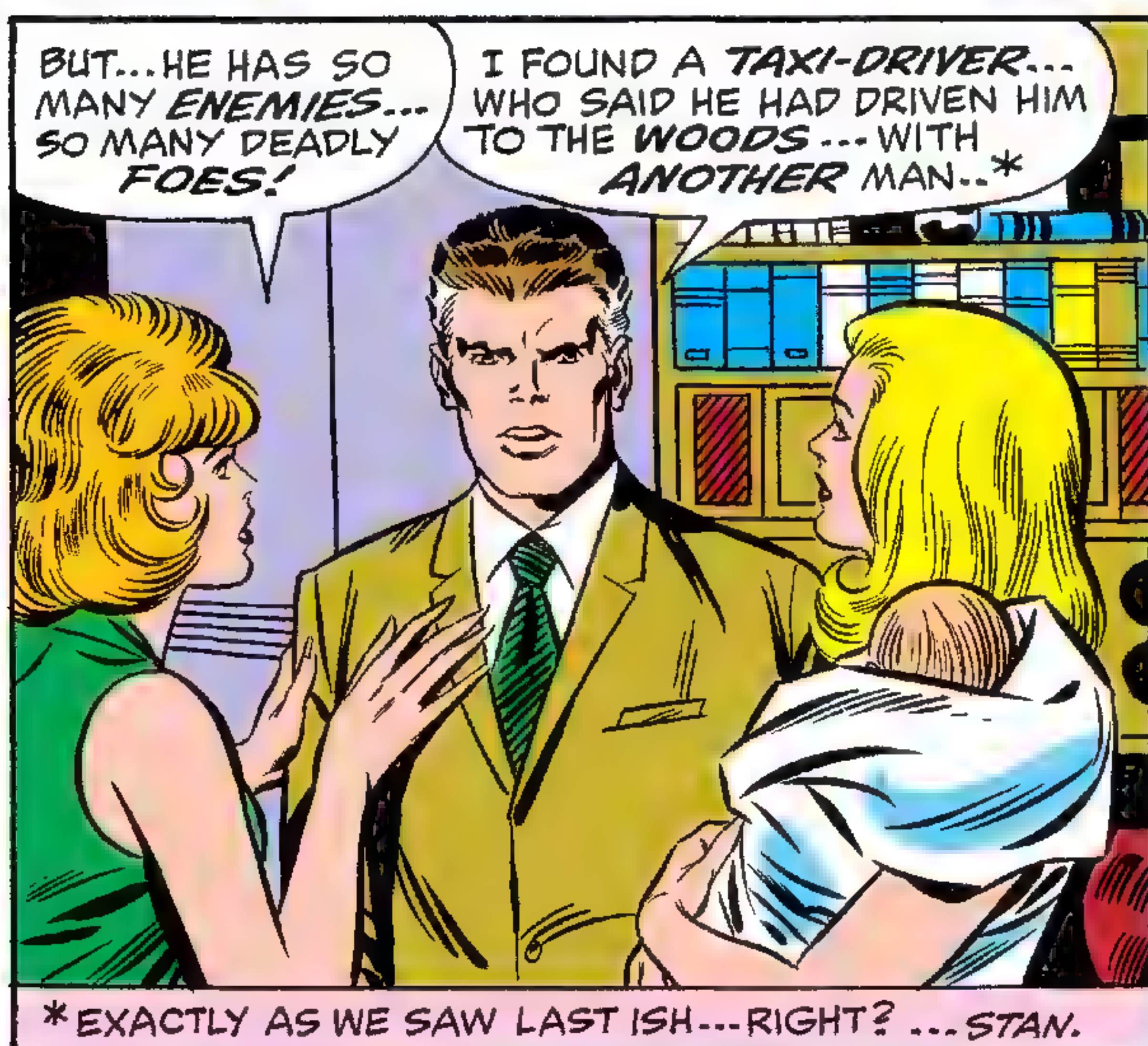
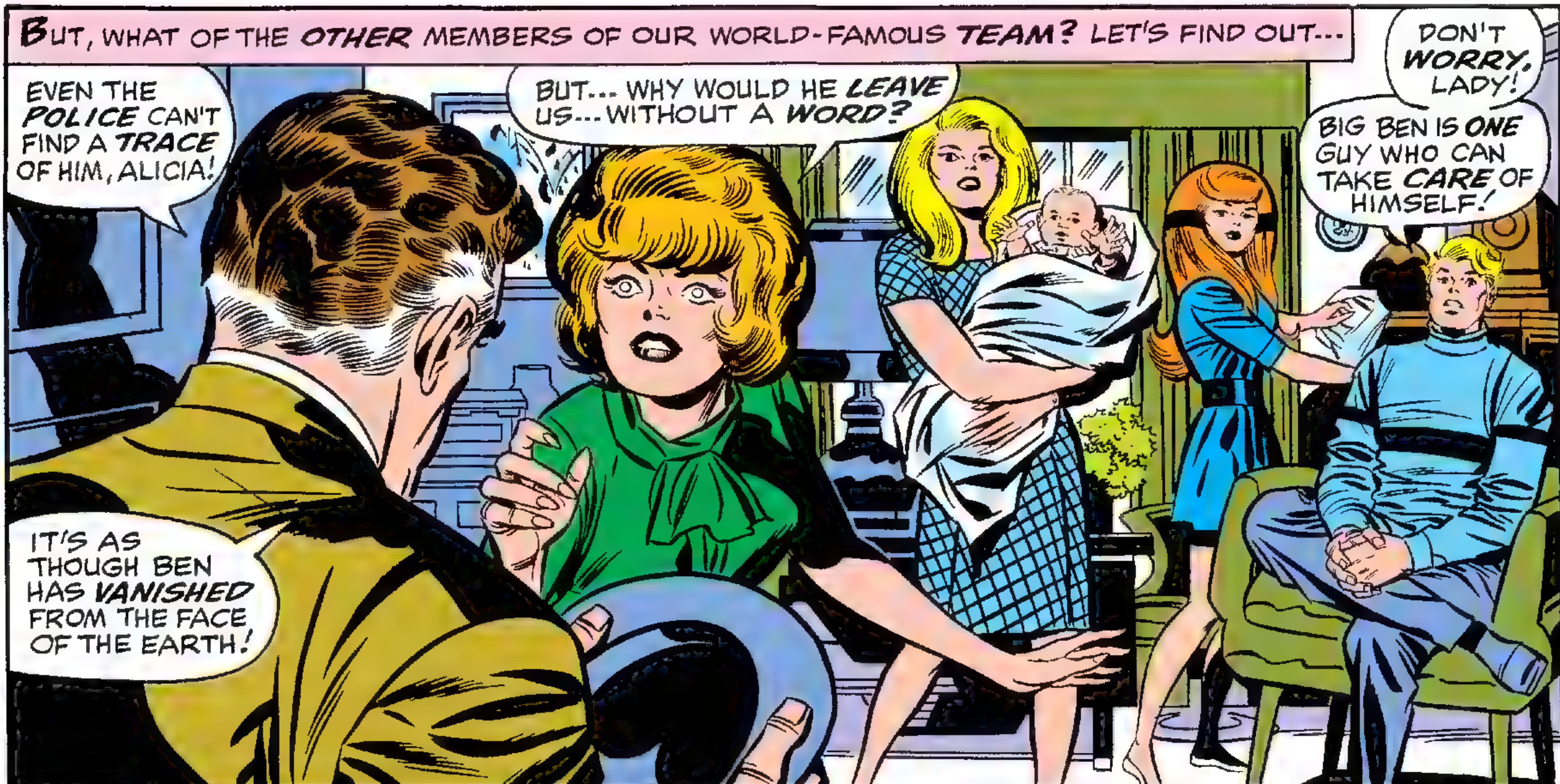
MY **REPUTATION**, AS
THE GREATEST **SLAVER**
OF ALL WILL BE BEYOND
QUESTION WHEN WE
FINALLY REACH OUR
DESTINATION!

YOU WILL
BATTLE AS
NONE HAVE
EVER BATTLED...
BEFORE YOU MEET
YOUR **DEATH** IN
THE **GAMES** THAT
AWAIT YOU!

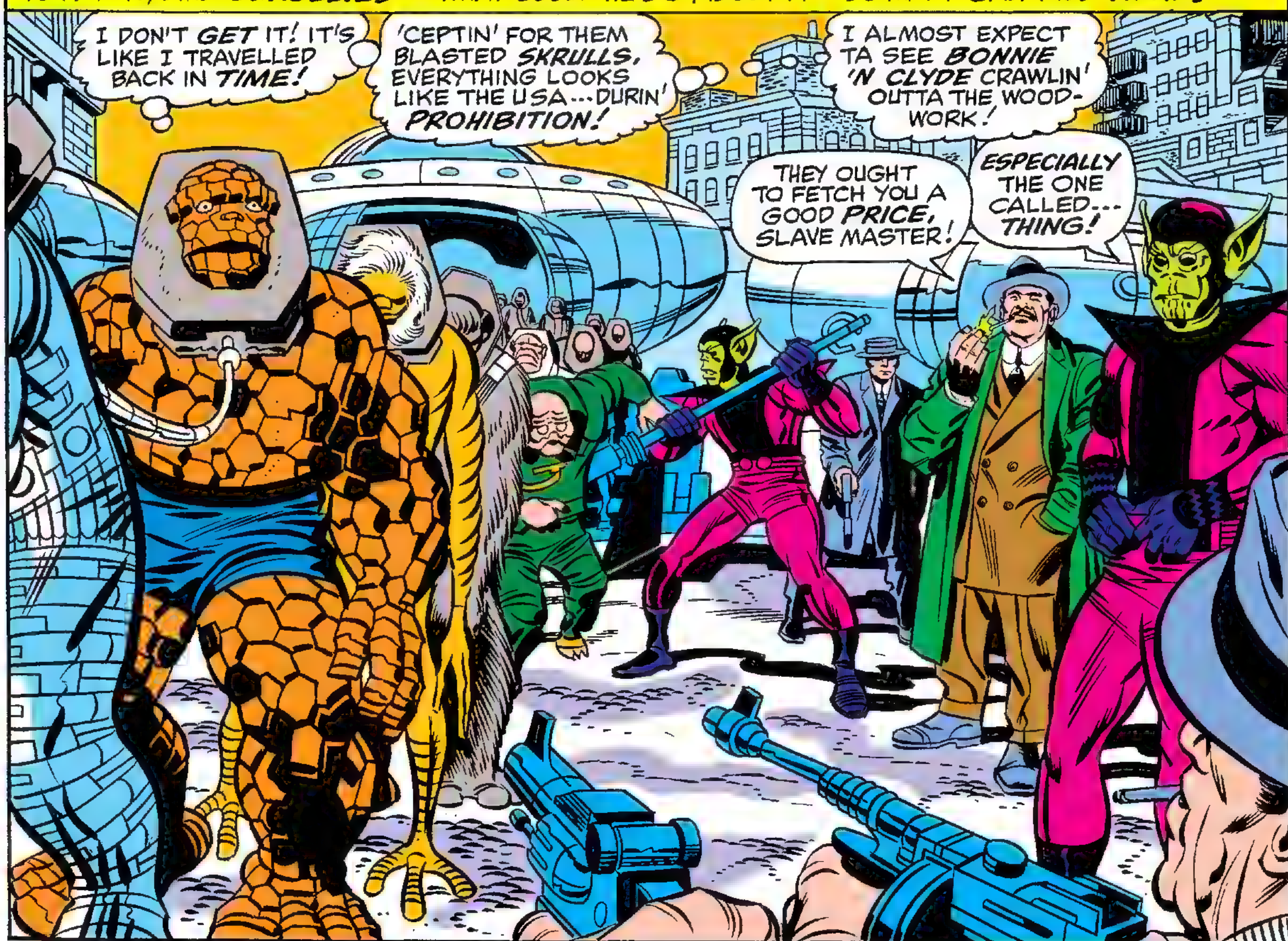
KEEP
TALKIN'!
LOUDMOUTH!
MY TIME'LL
COME!

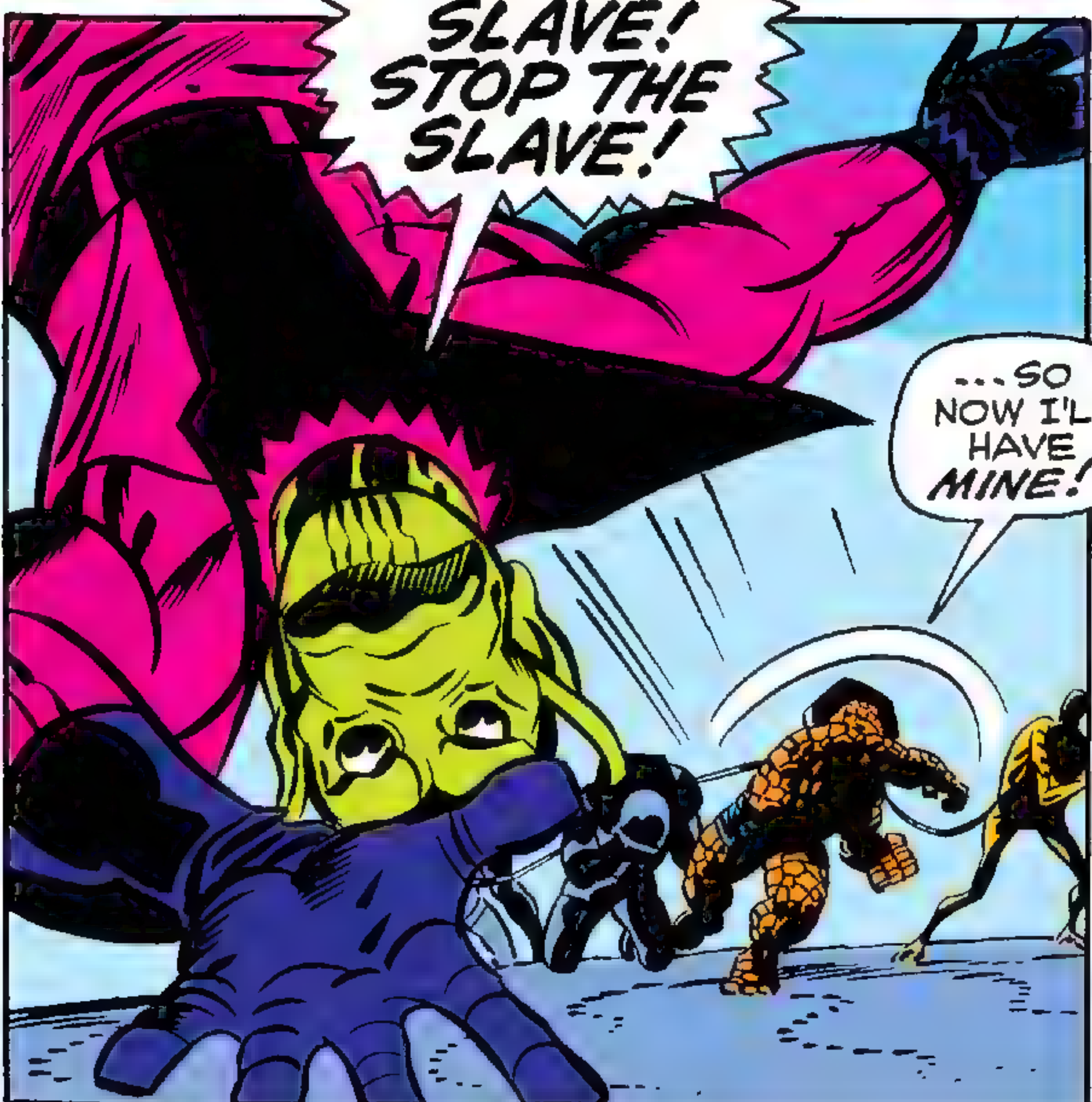
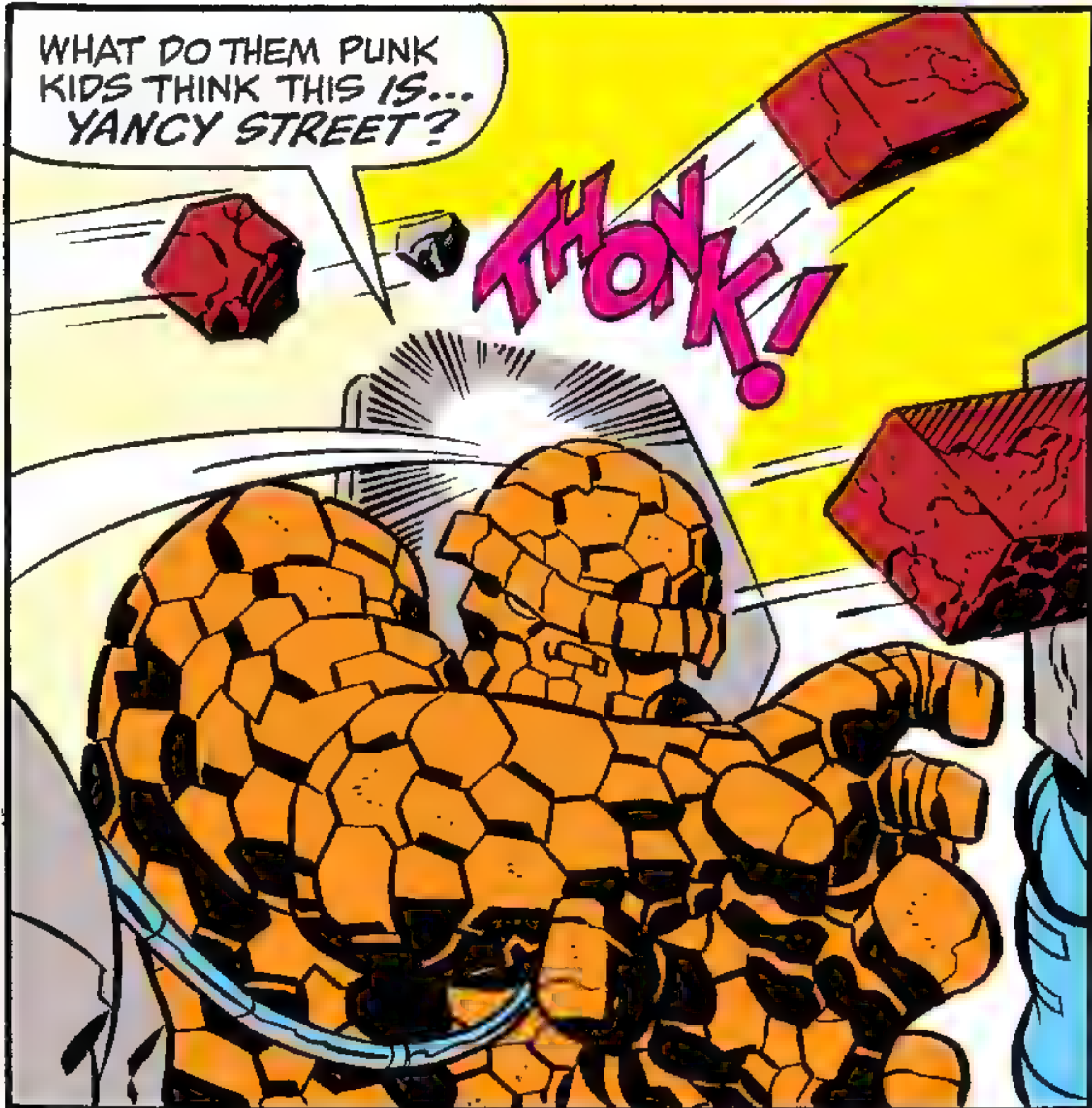


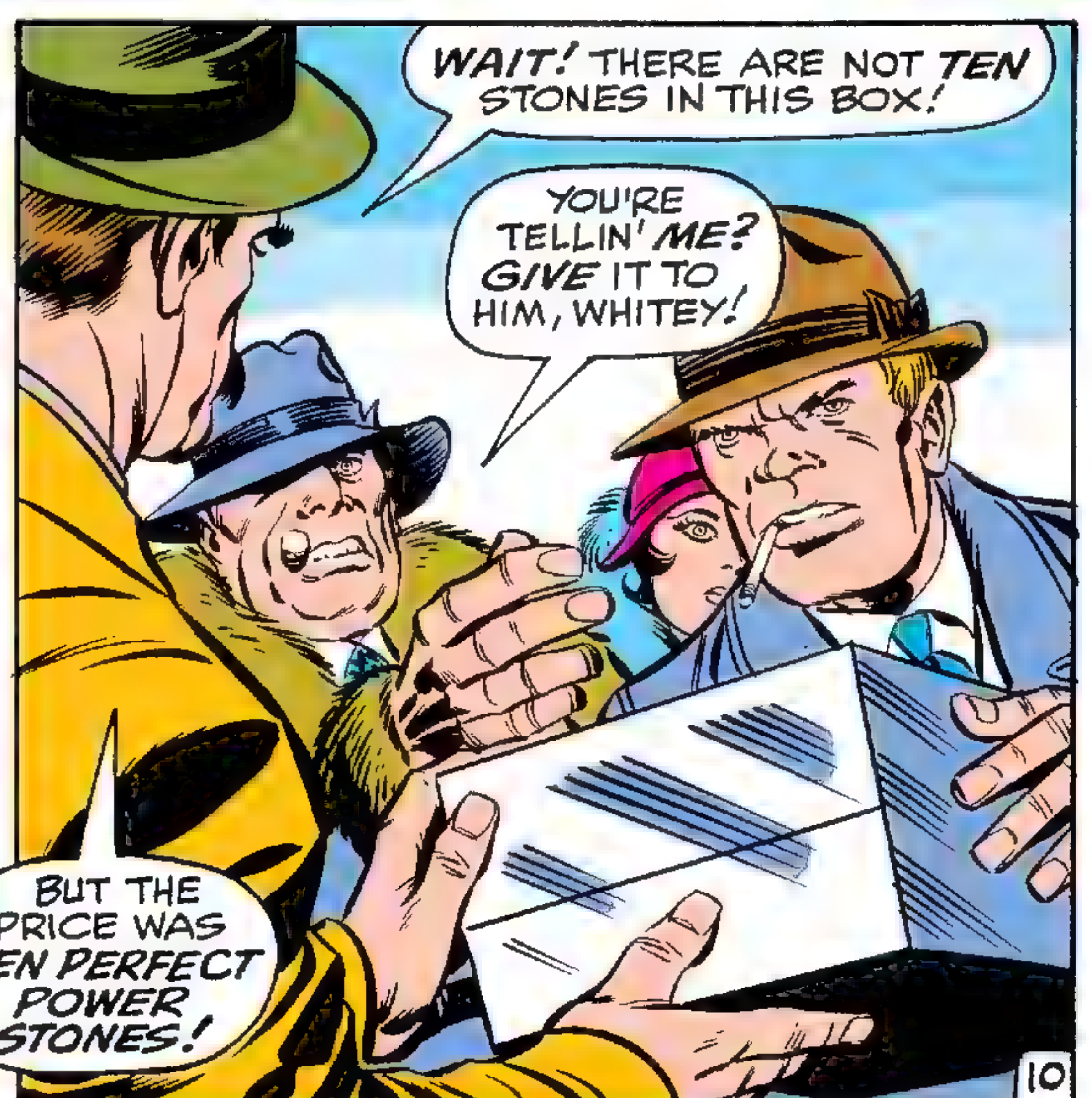
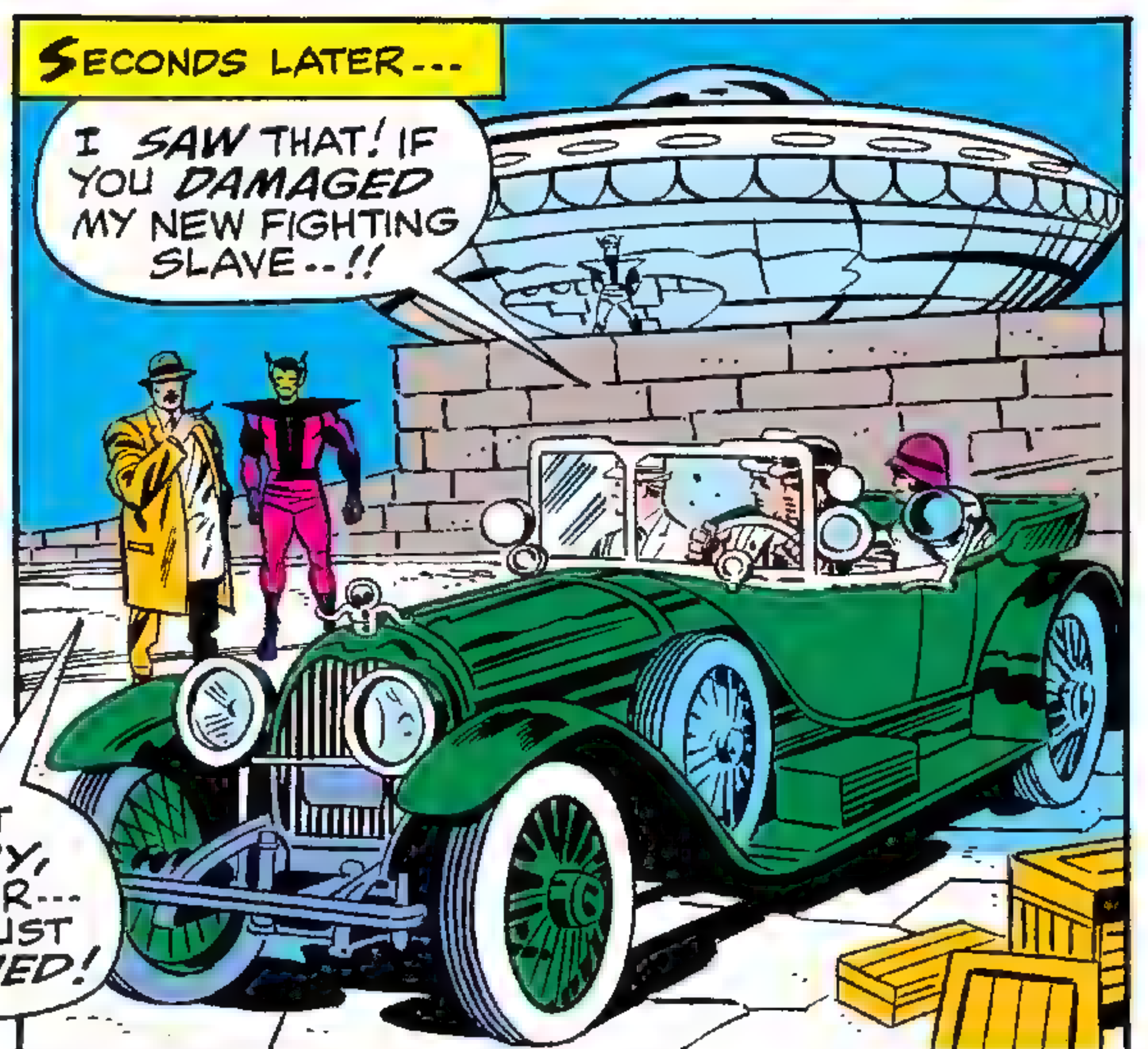


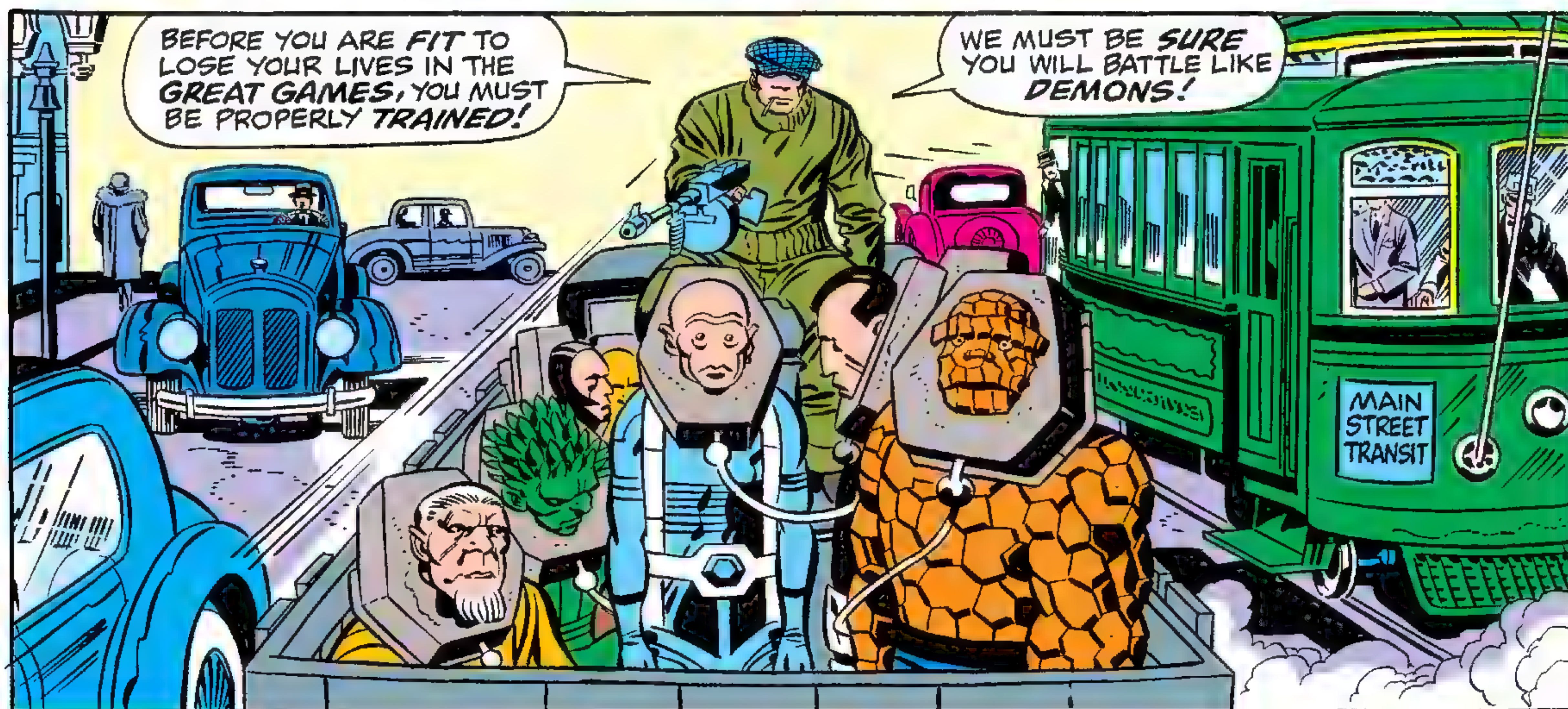


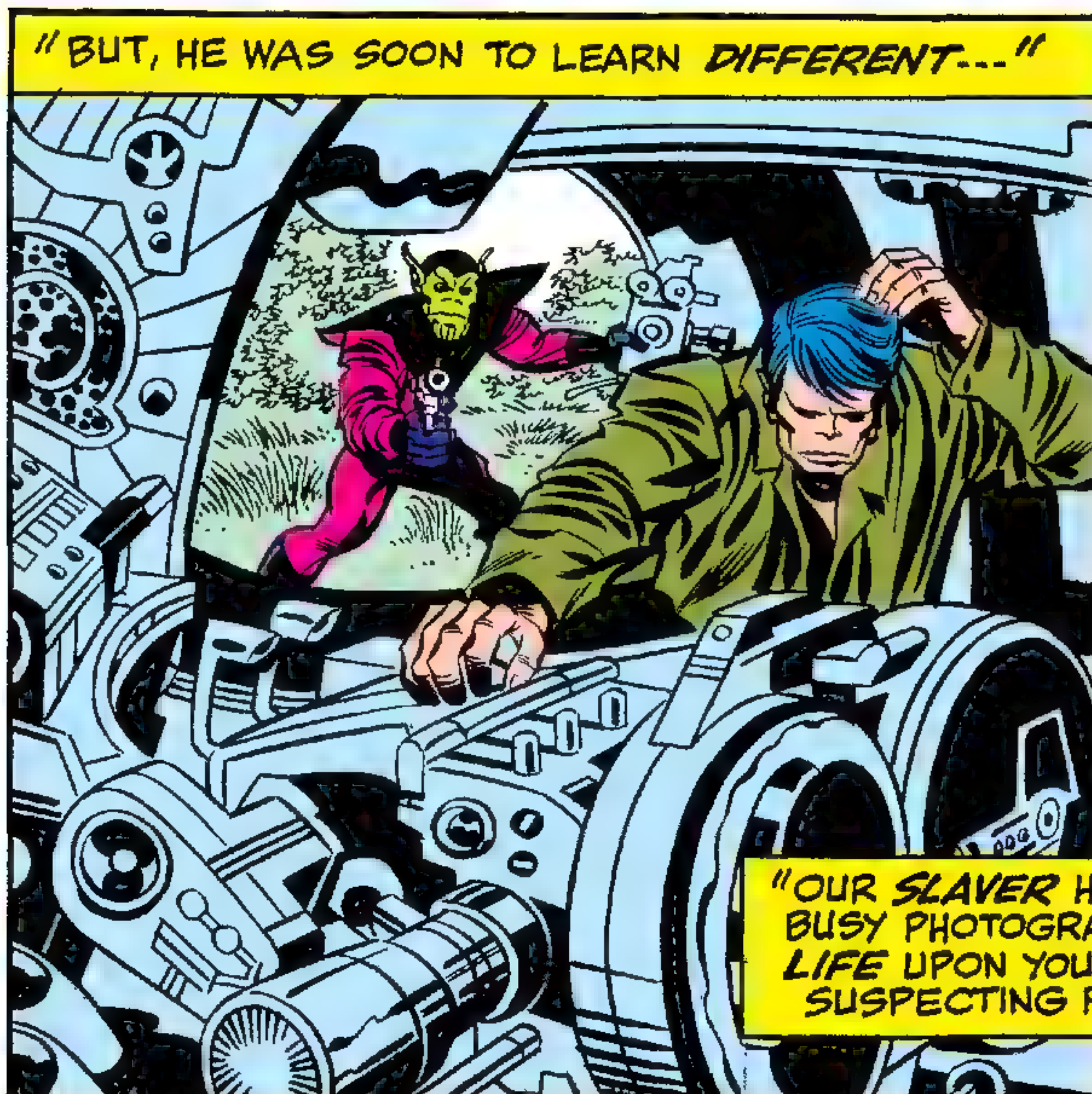
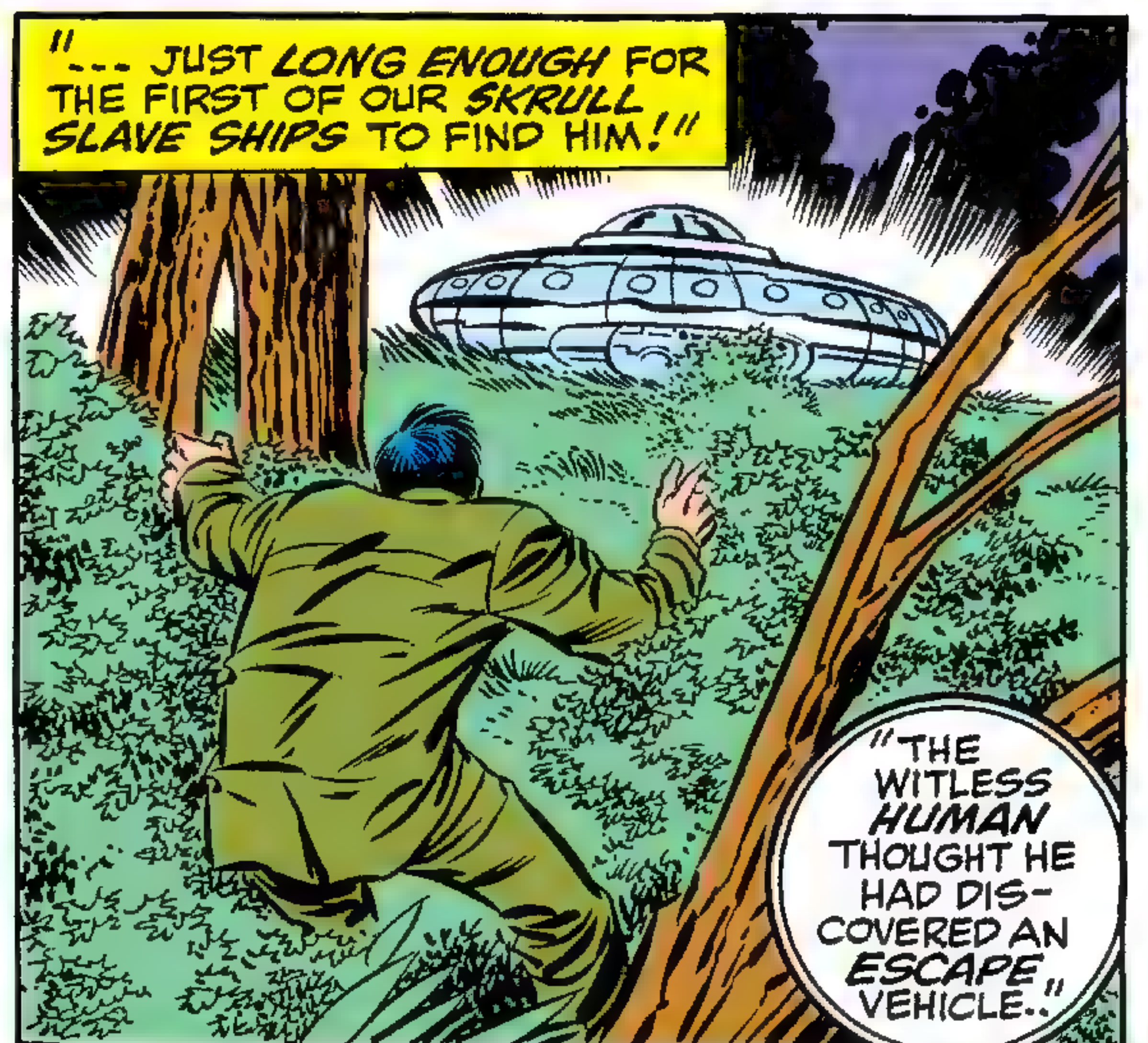
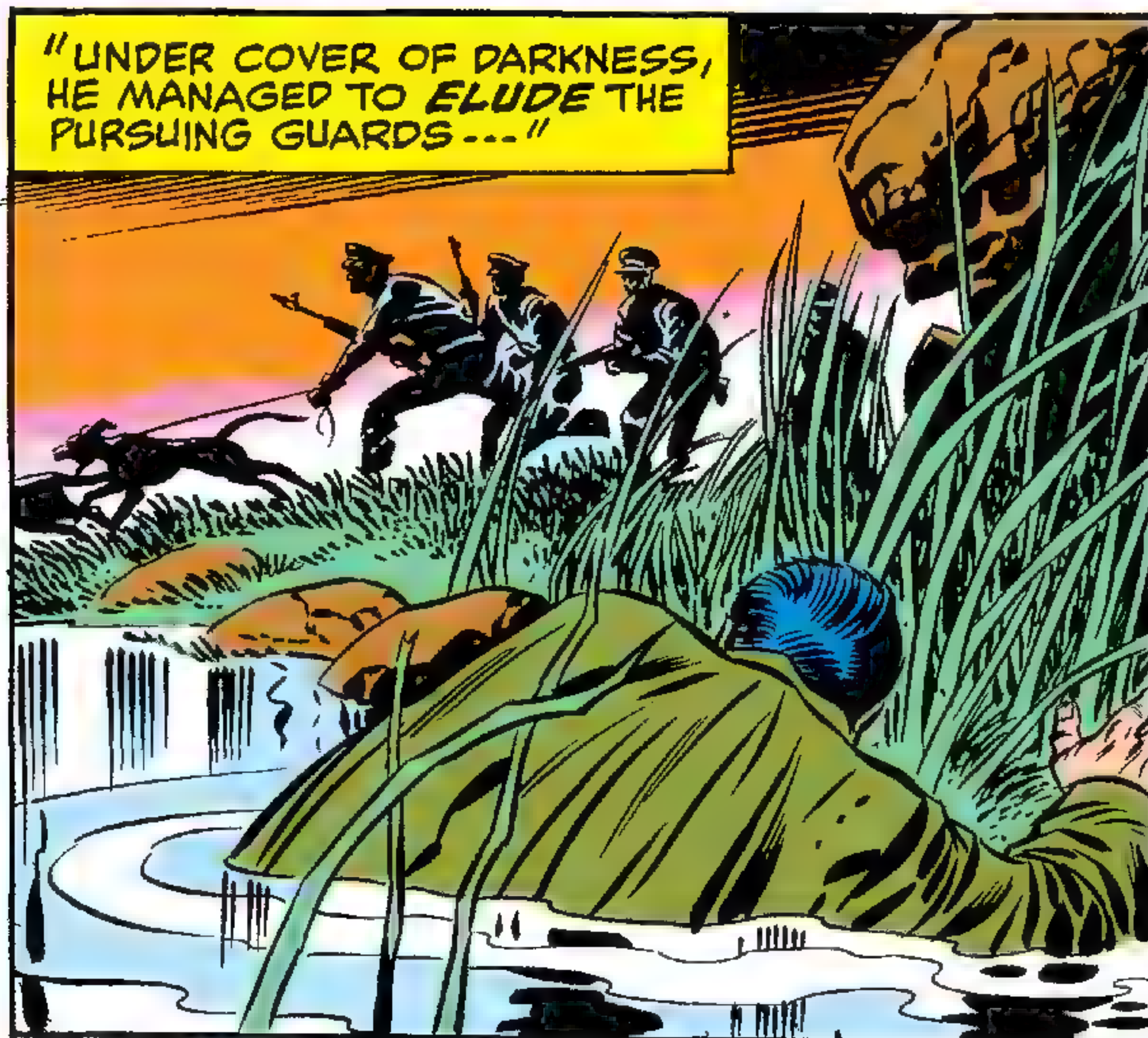
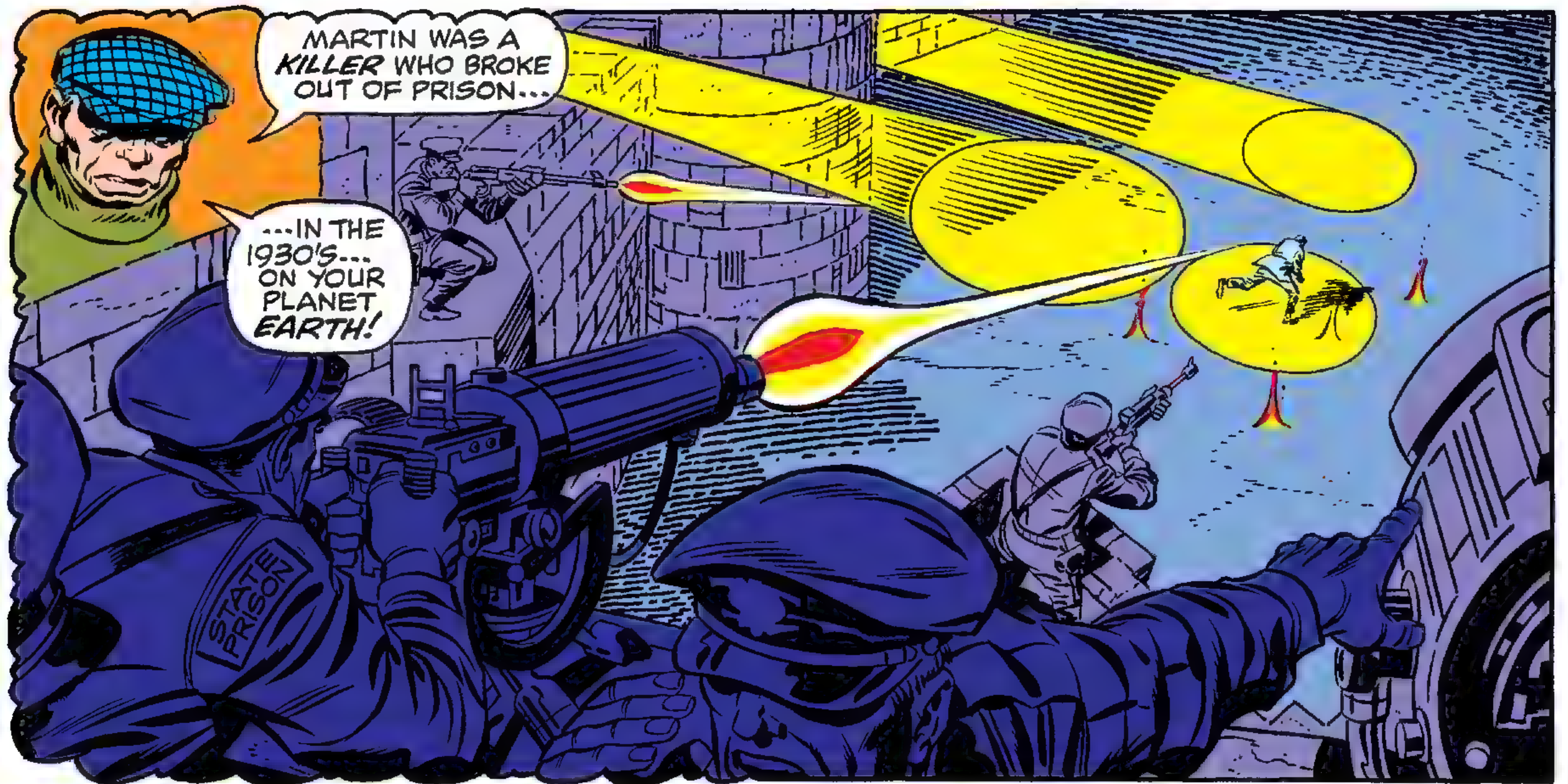
PERHAPS IT'S JUST AS WELL THAT THE TORCH *ISN'T* AWARE OF HIS HAPLESS PARTNER'S FATE JUST YET! FOR, LIKE *OURSELVES*... WHAT COULD HE DO ABOUT IT... SO MANY GALAXIES AWAY?

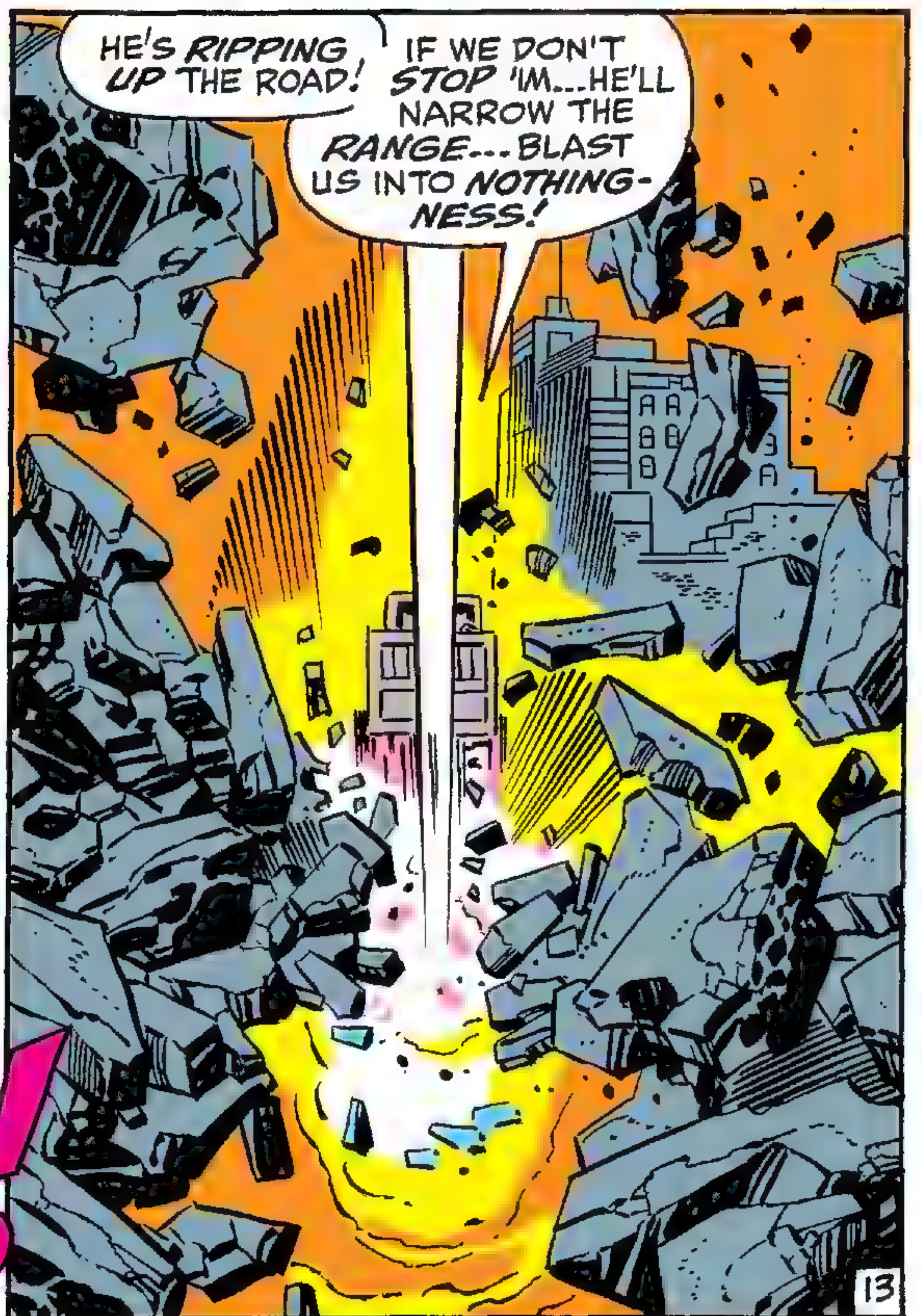
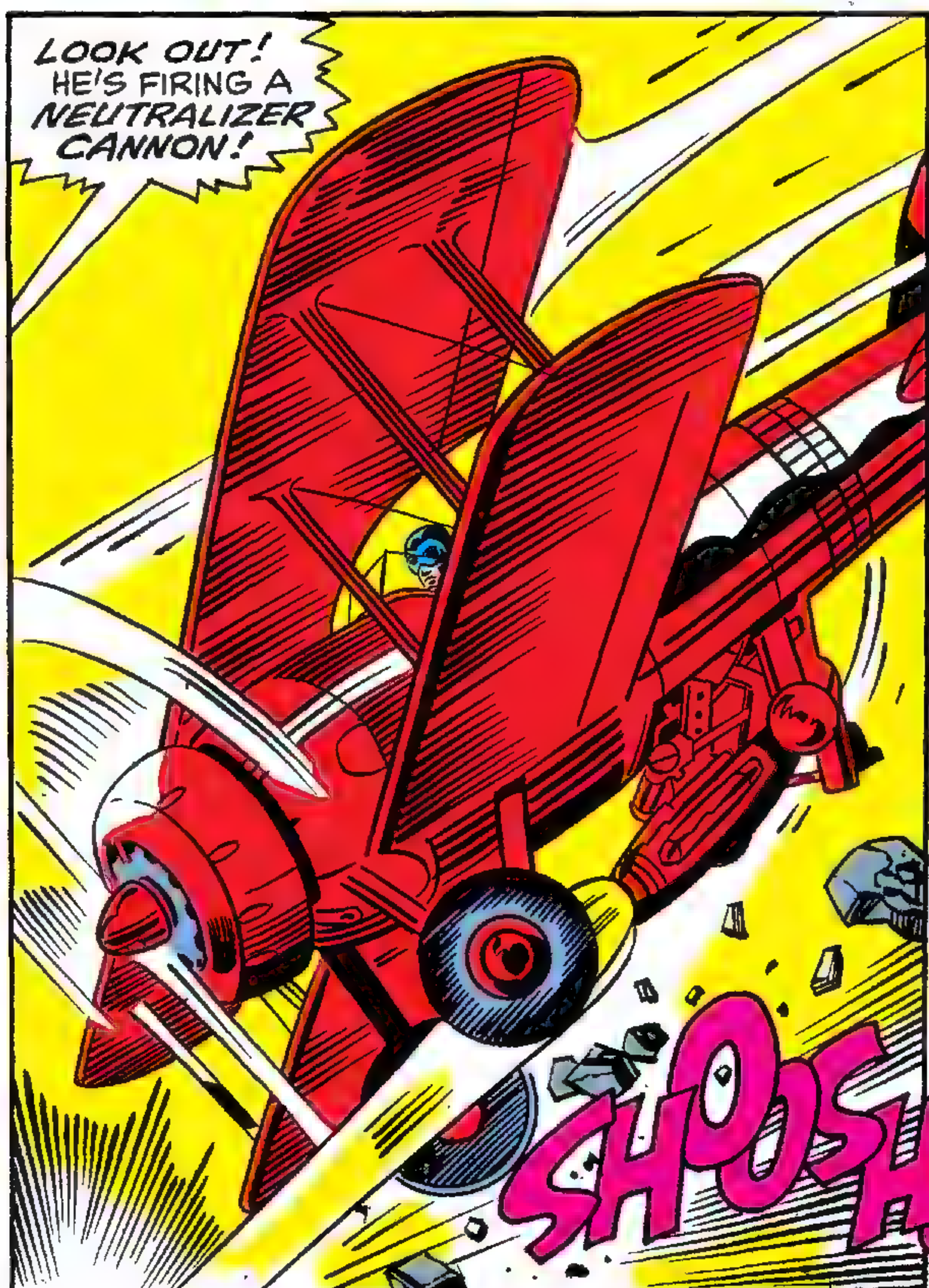


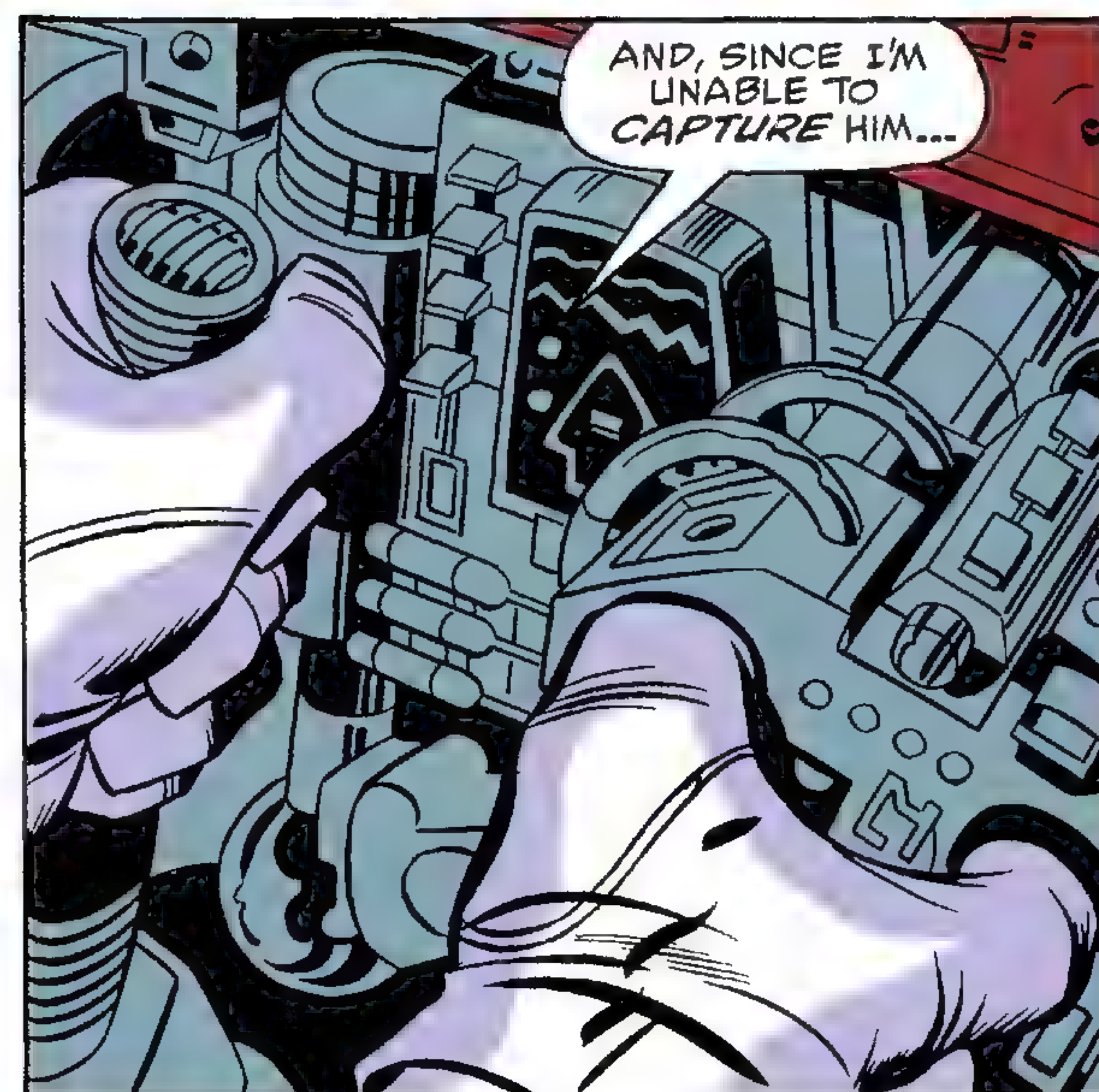
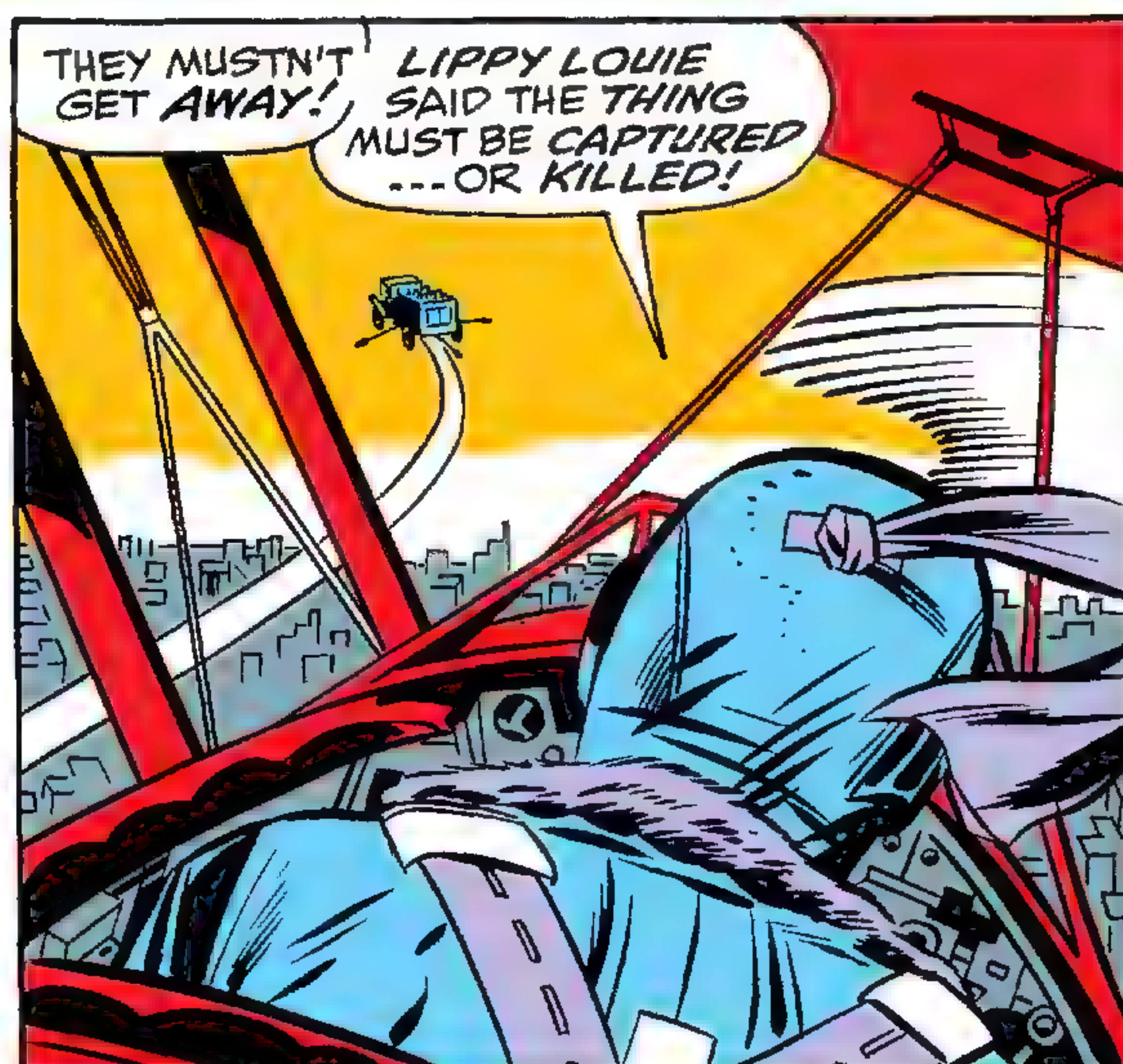
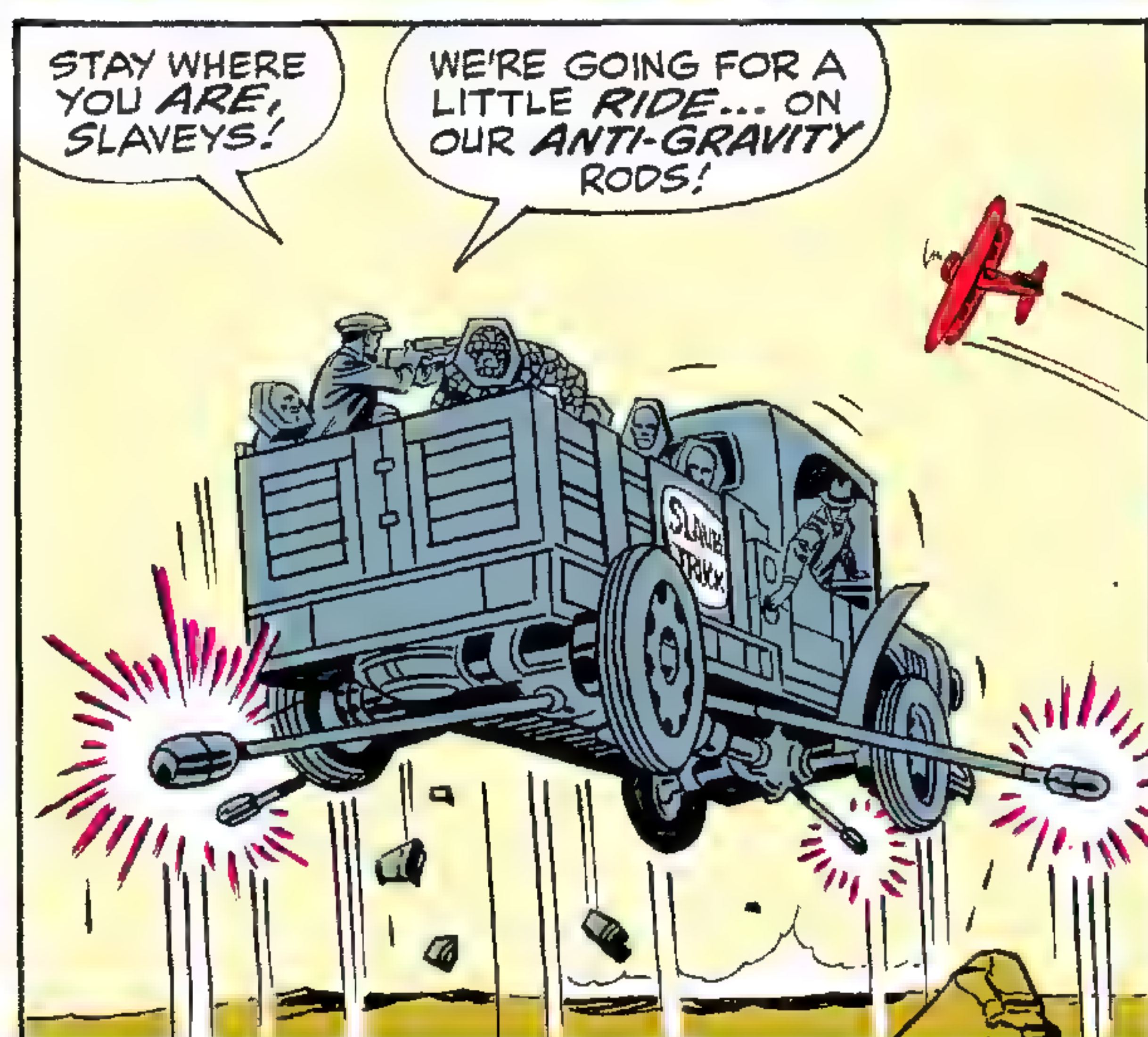
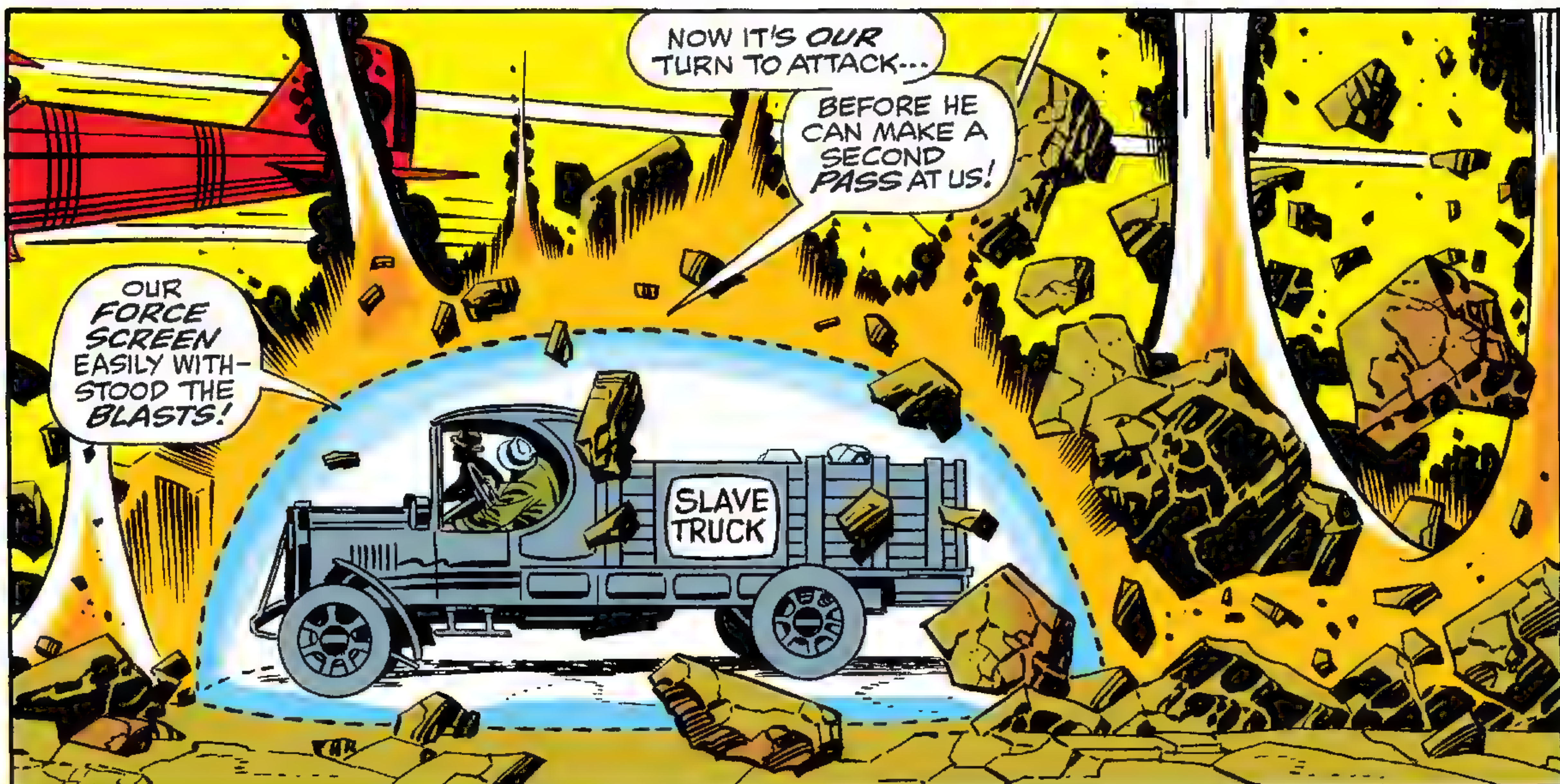


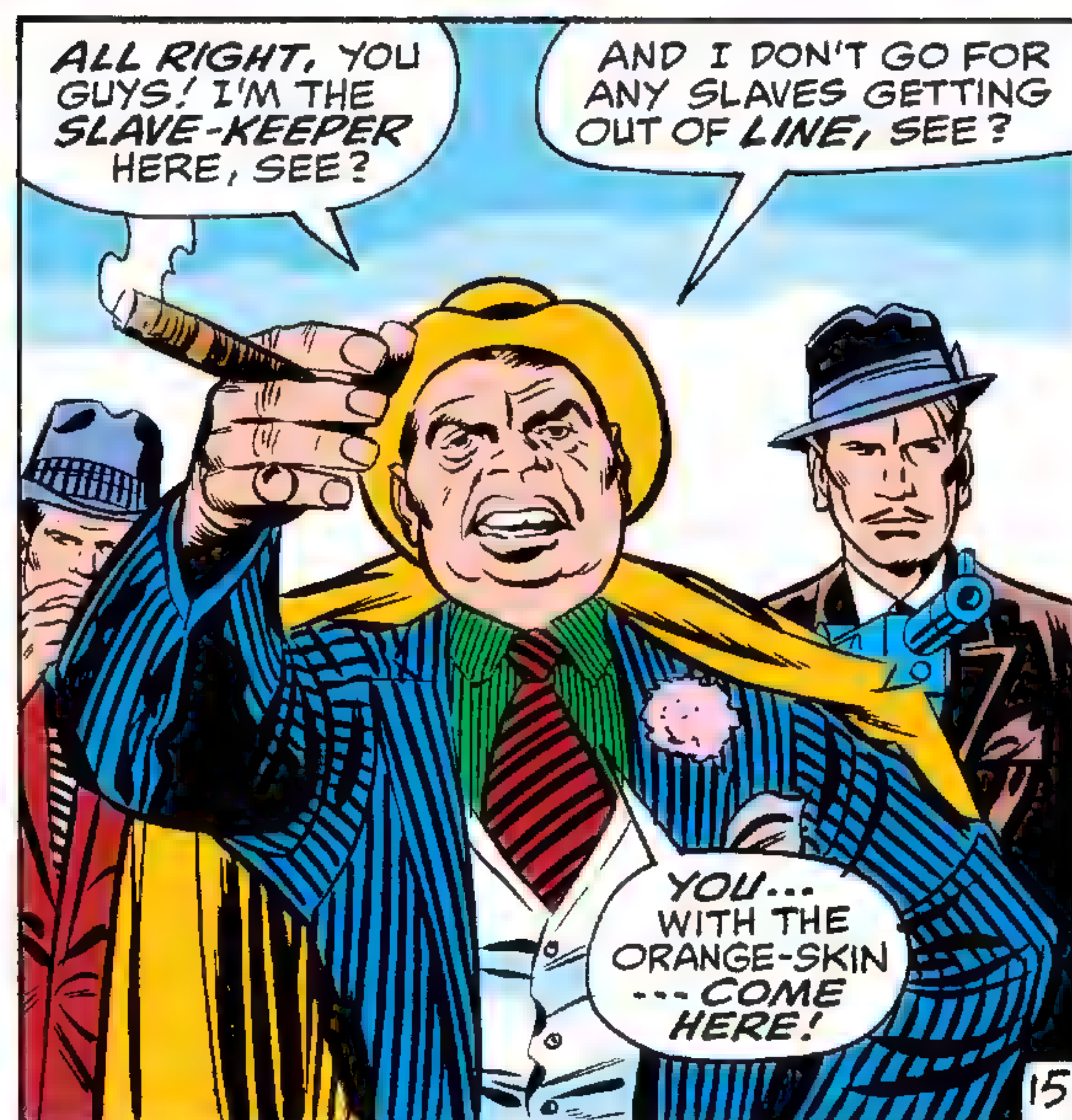
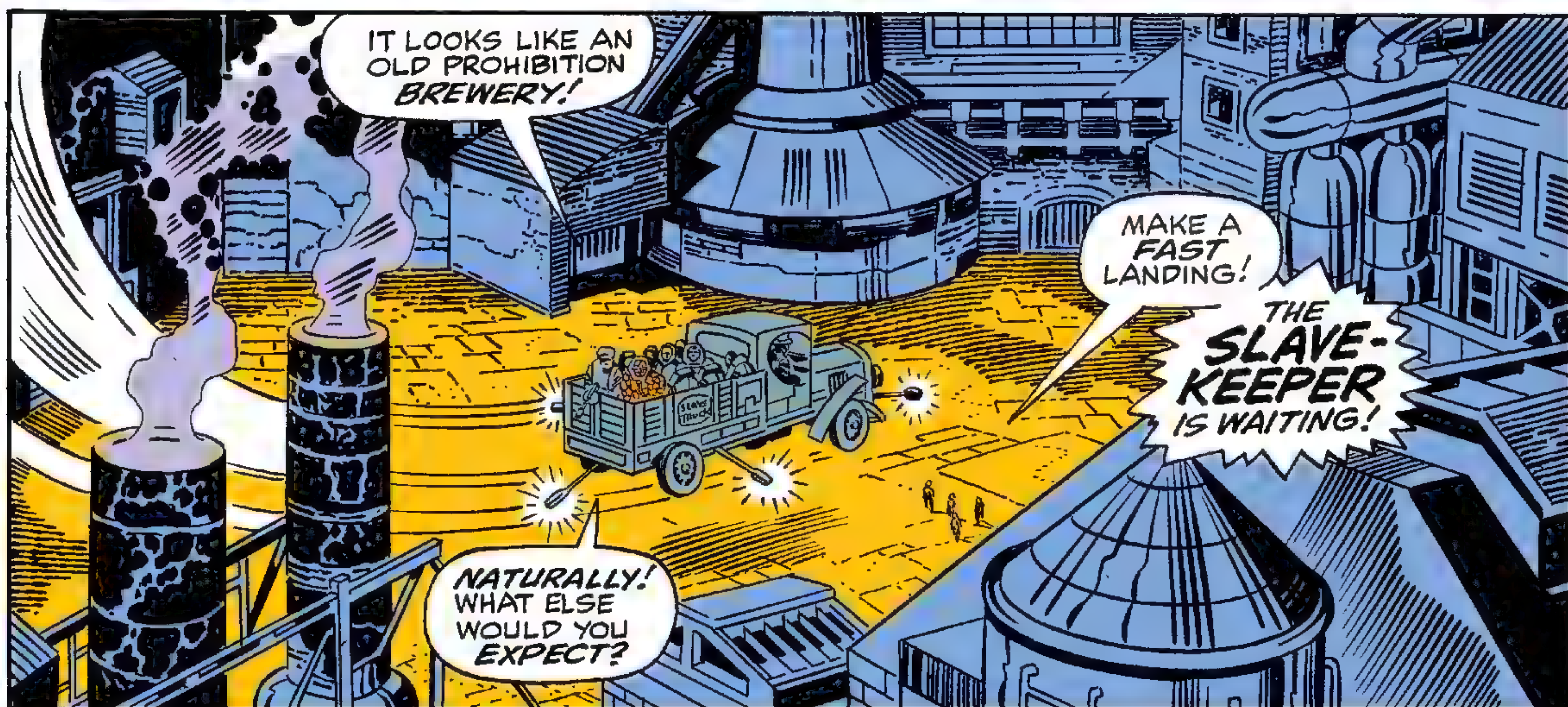
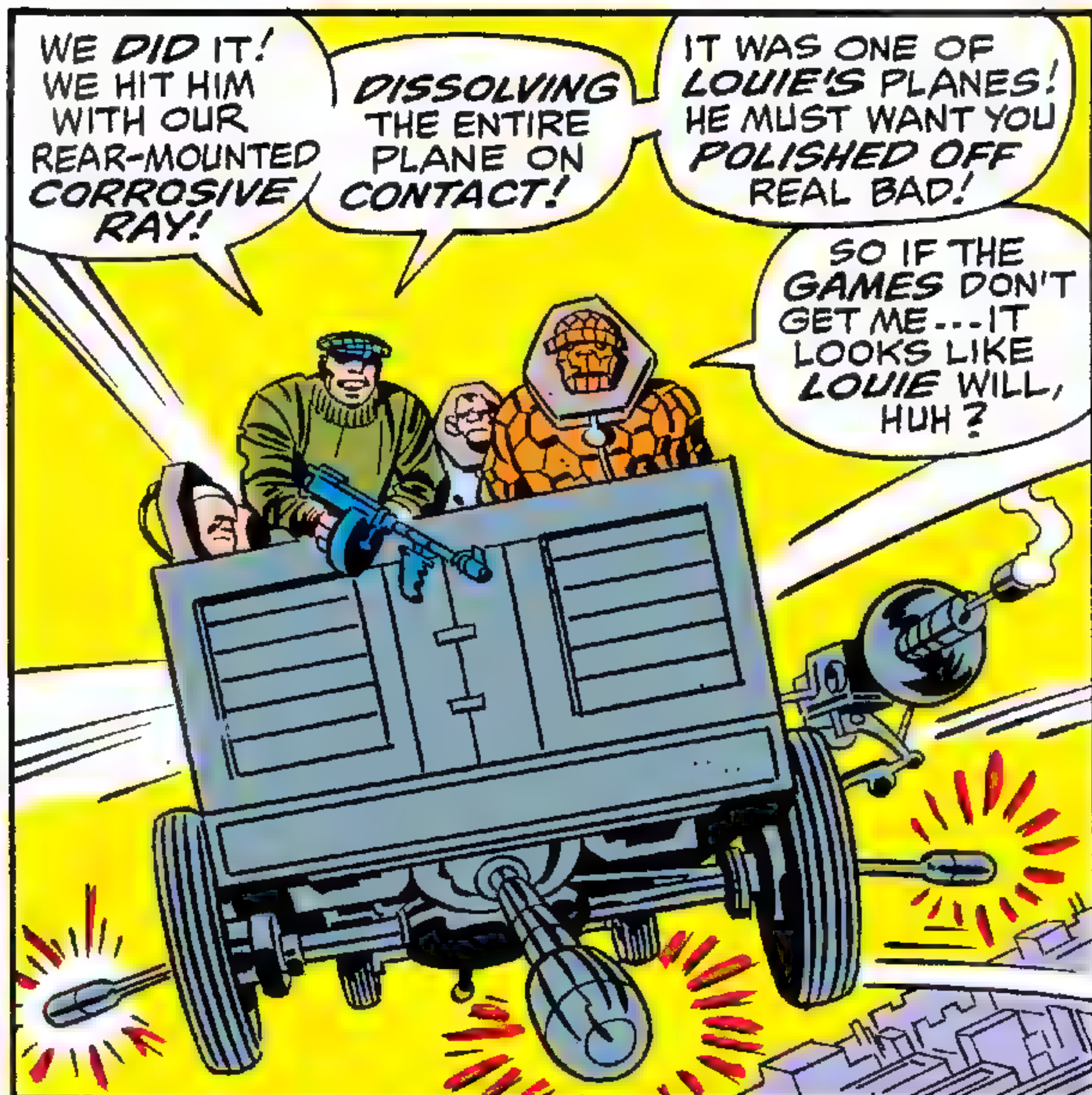


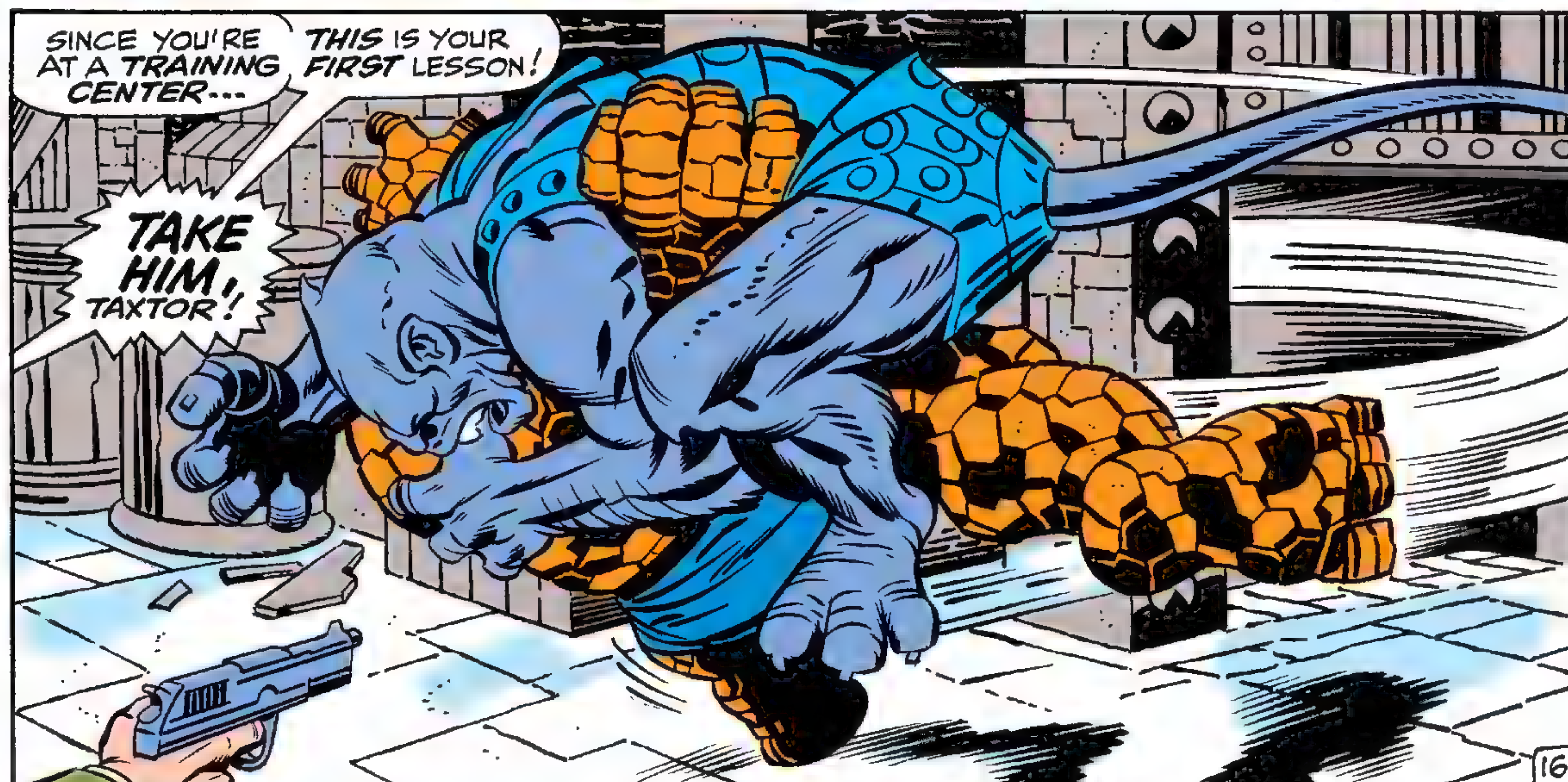


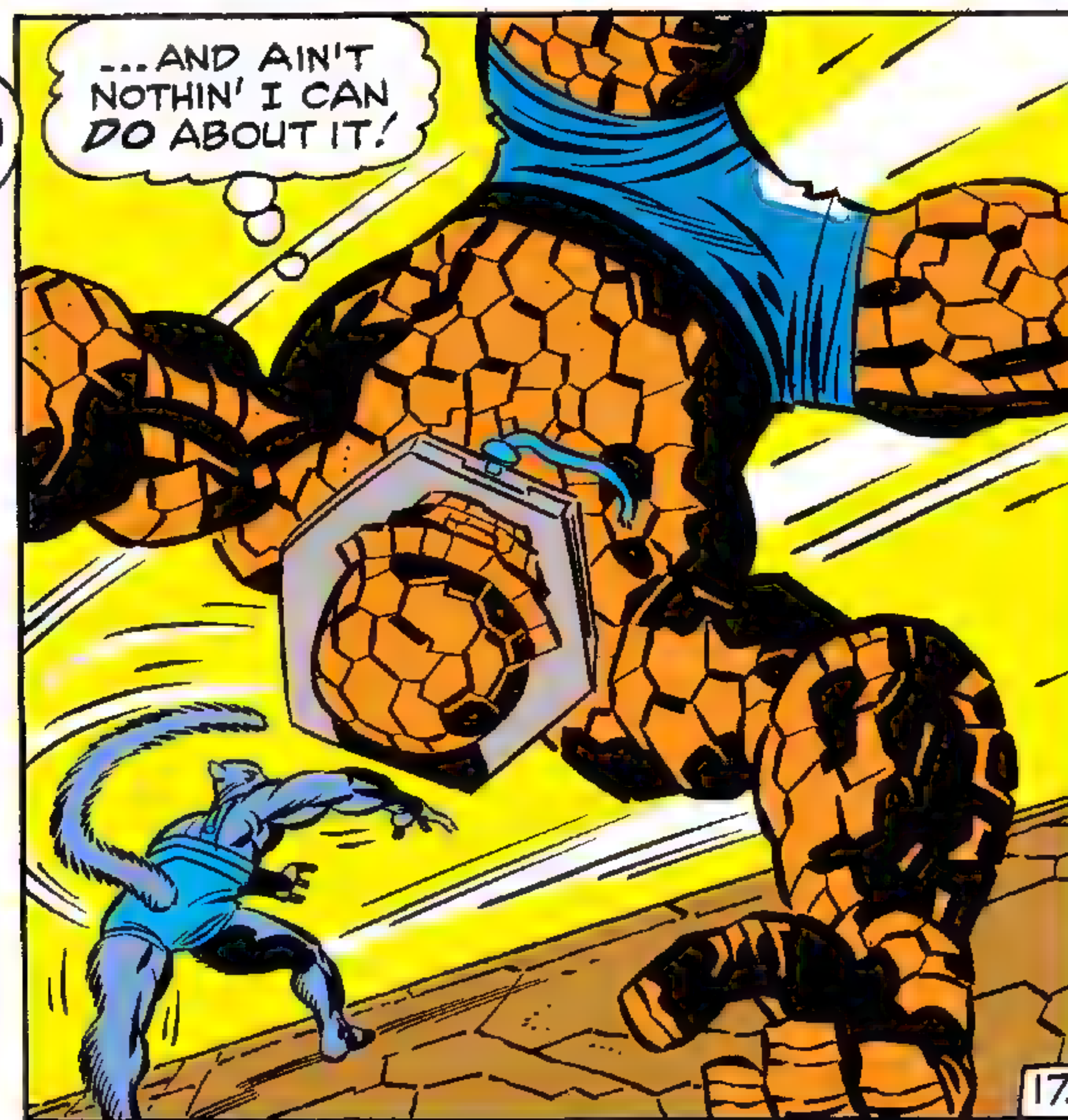
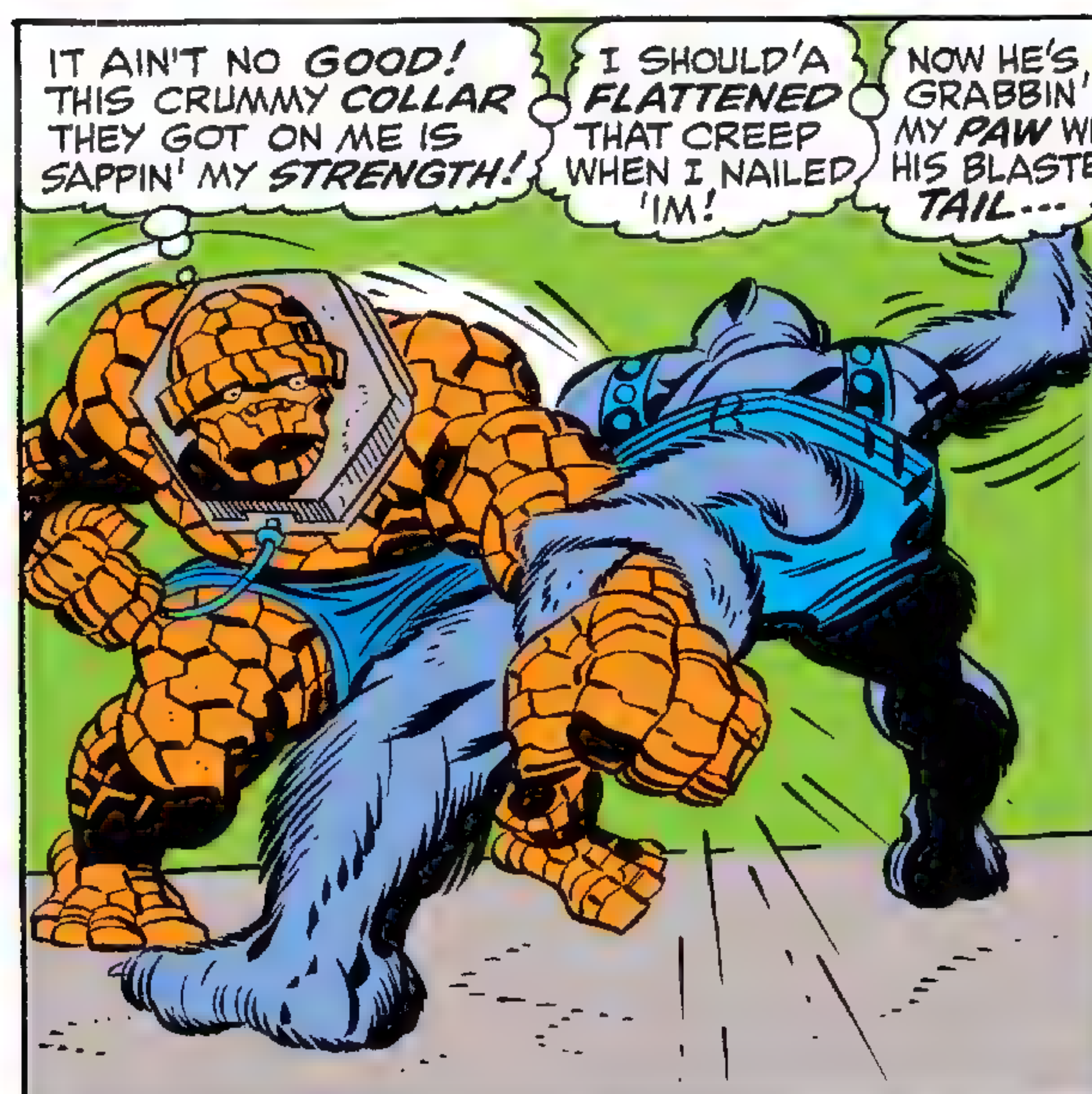
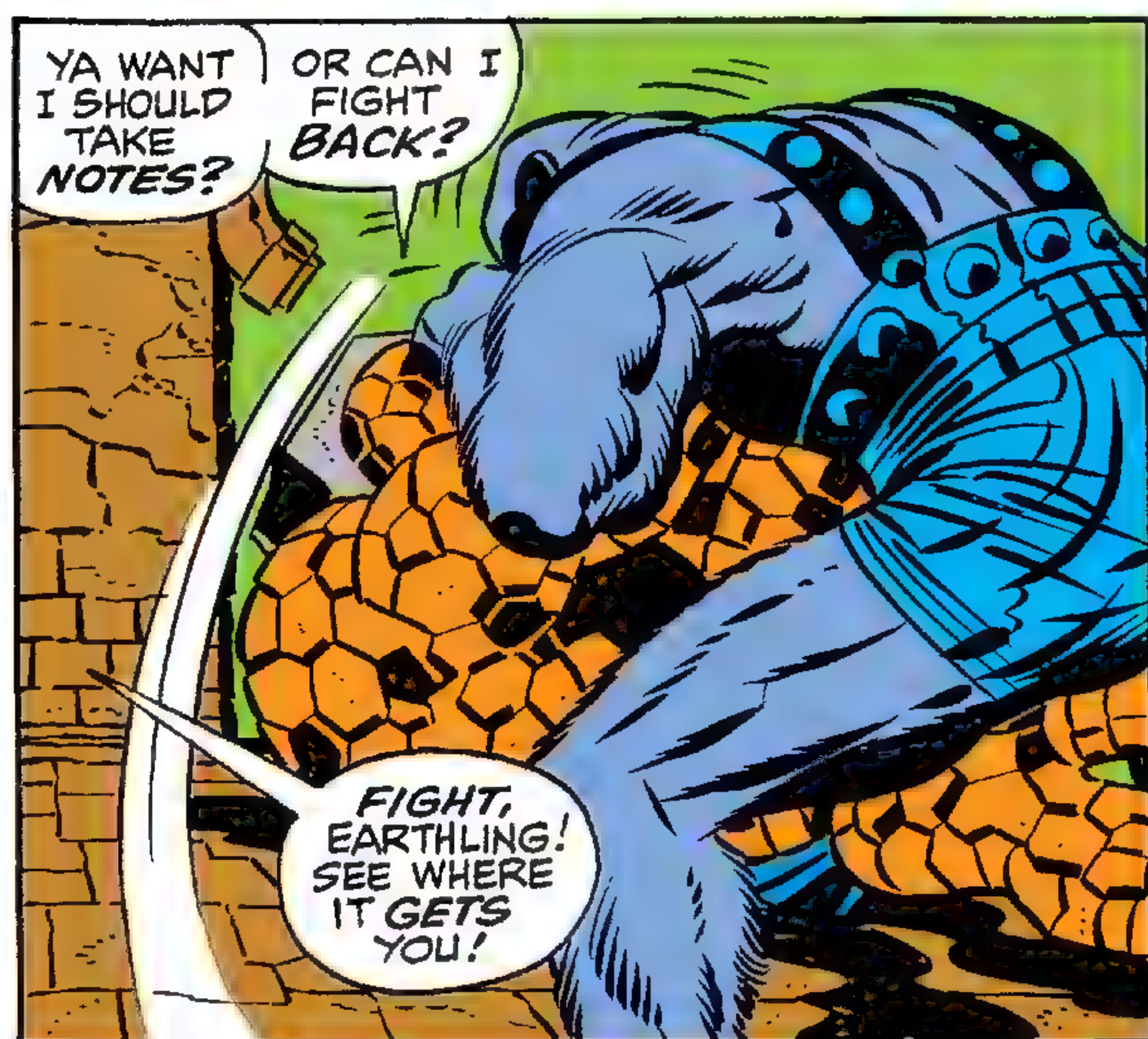
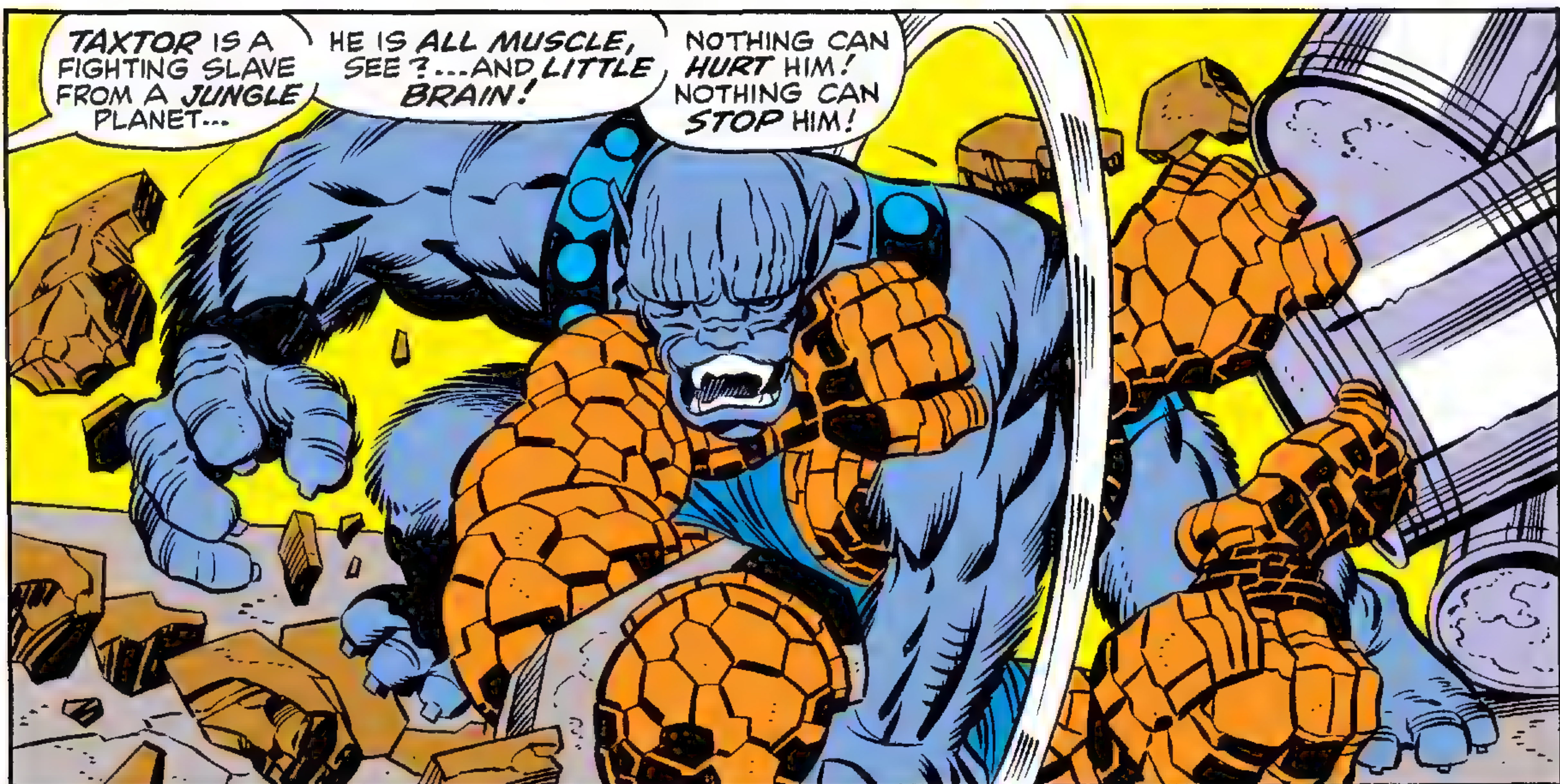


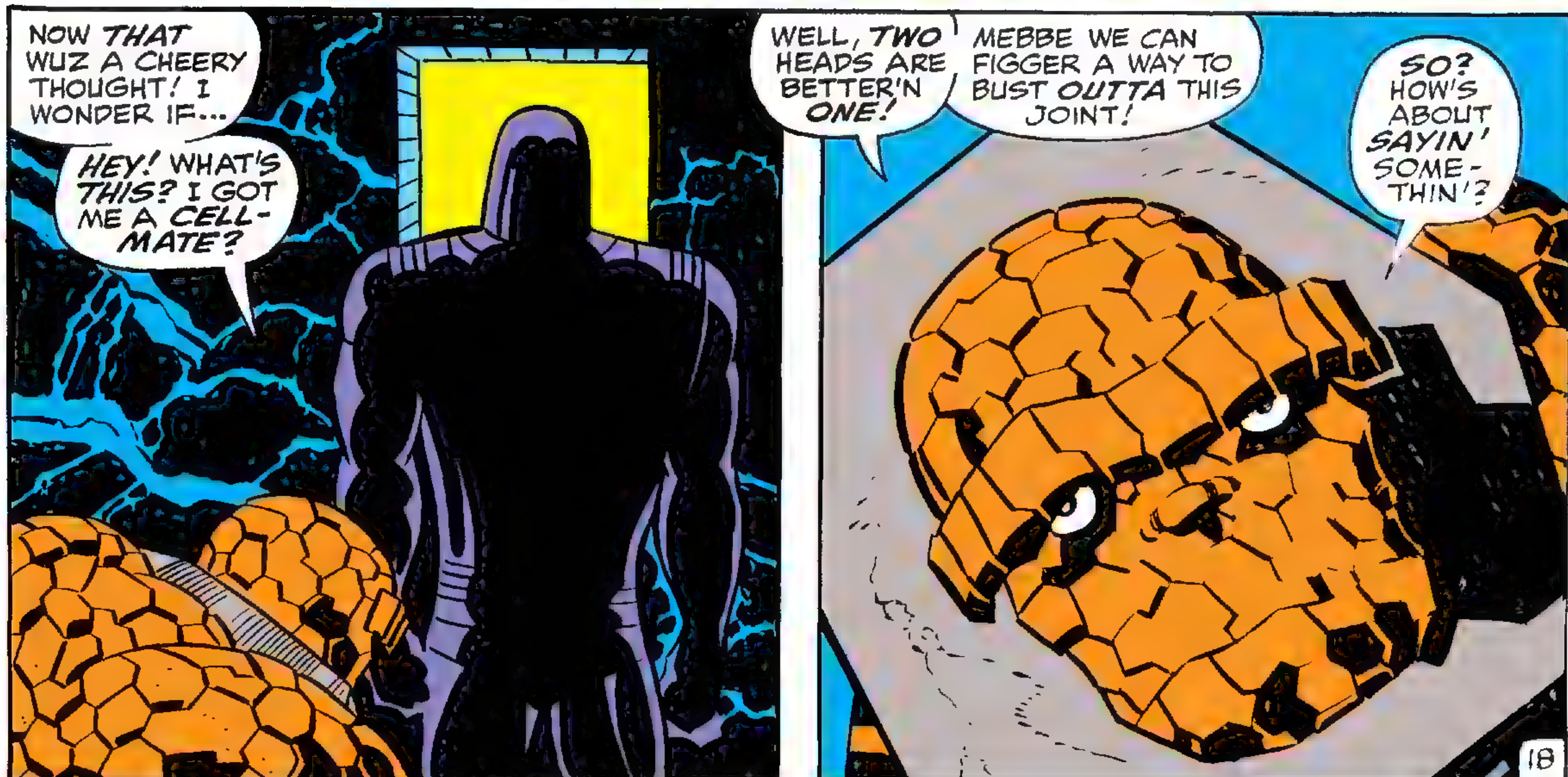
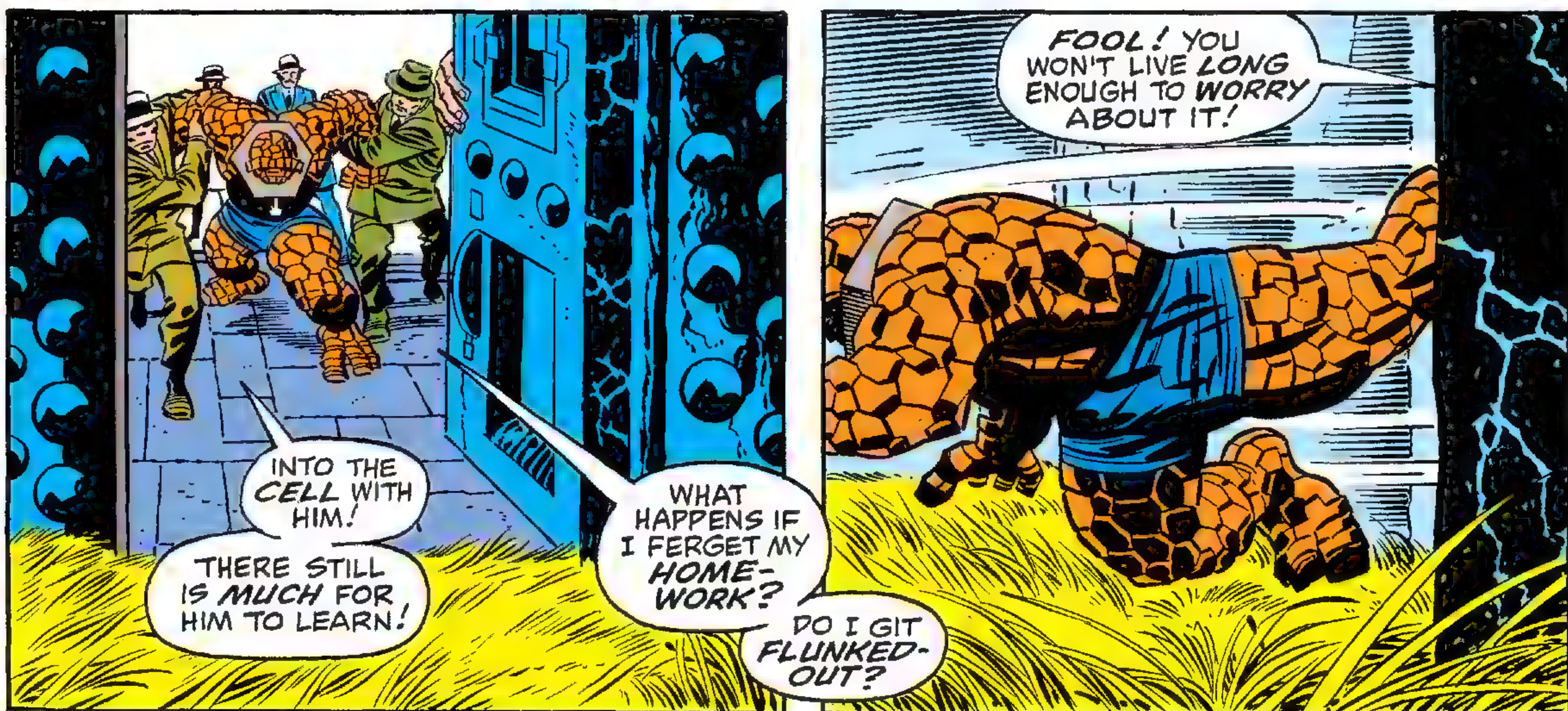
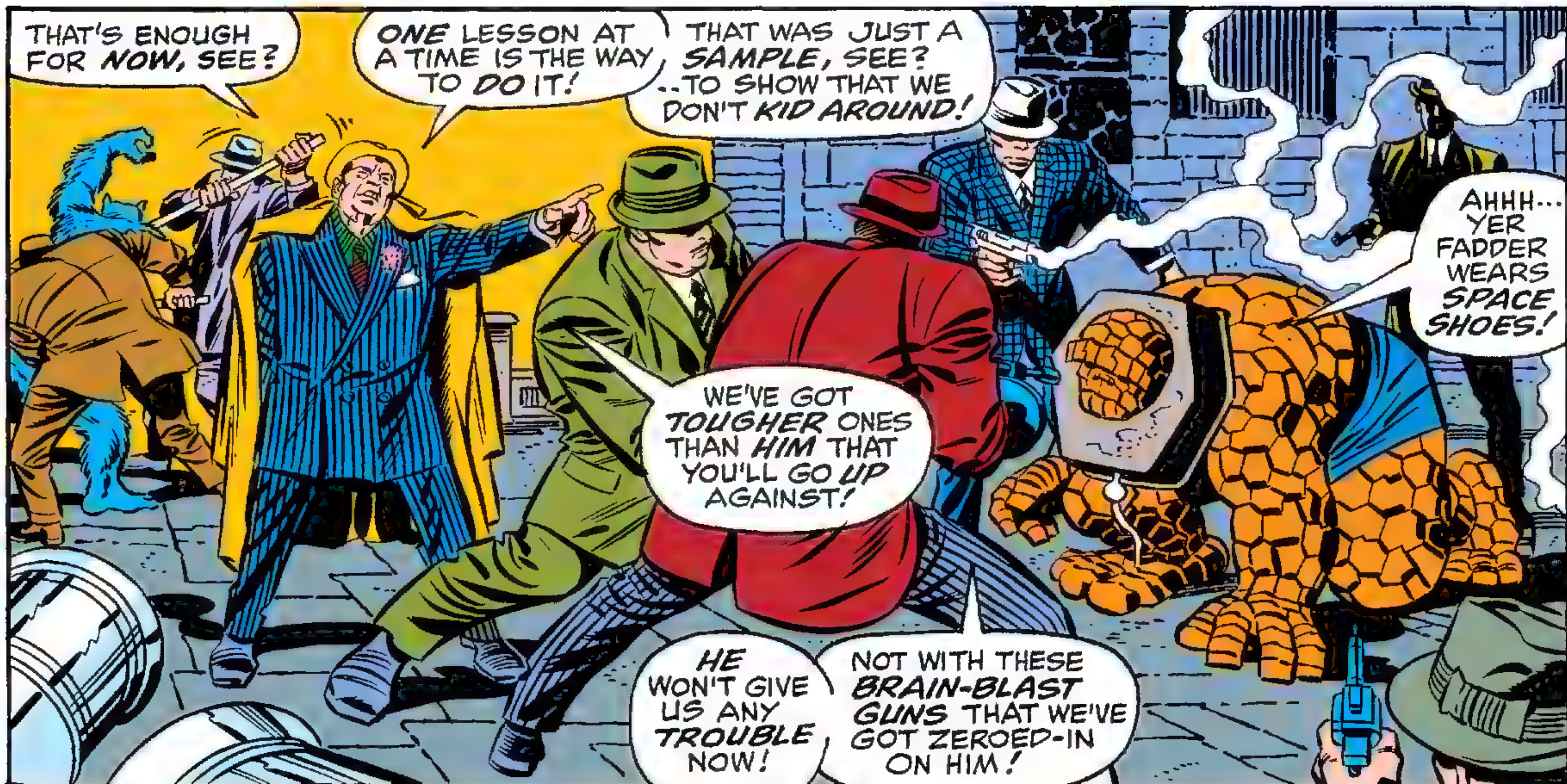








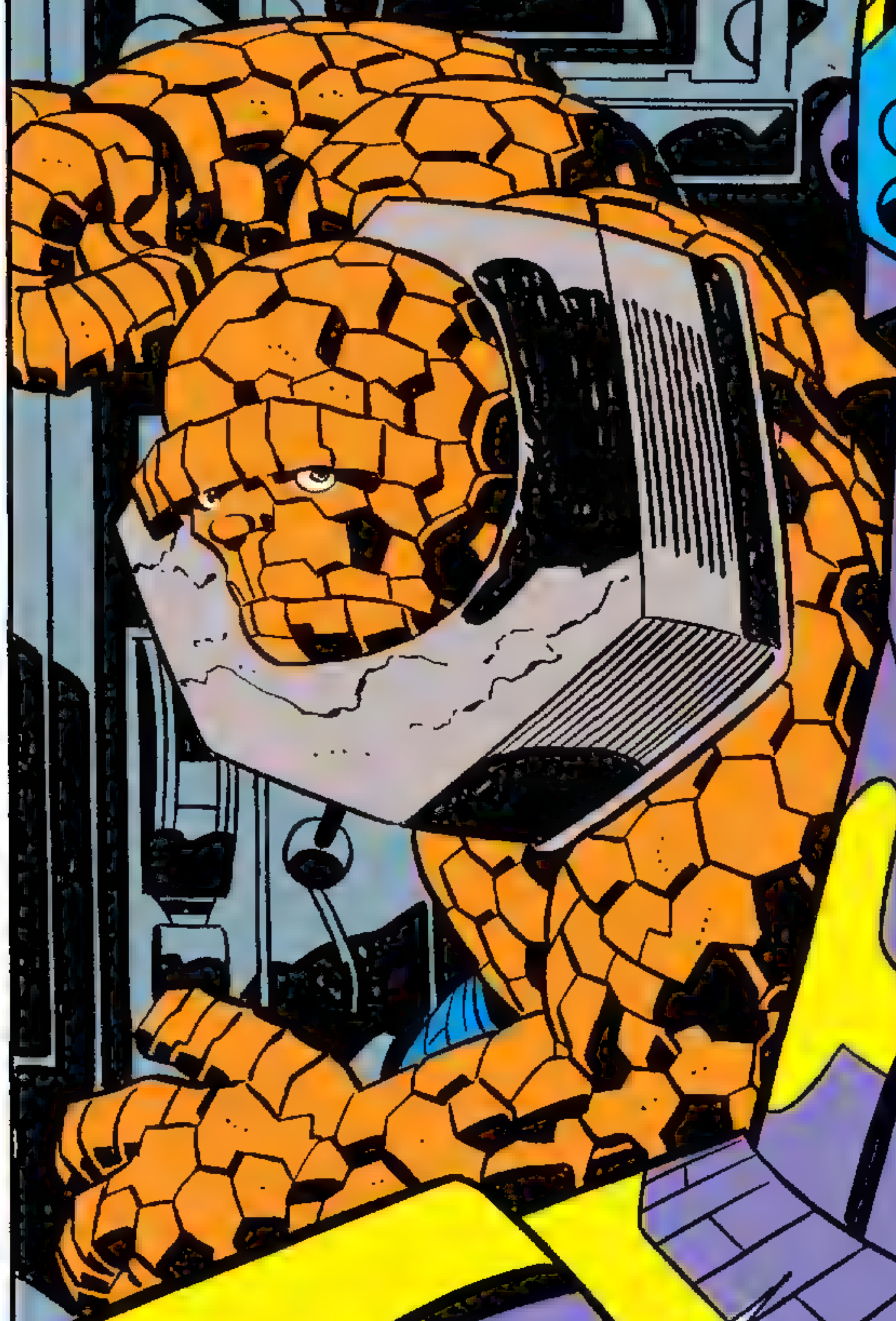




I AM **TORGO!**
I EXIST FOR
ONE PURPOSE
ALONE!

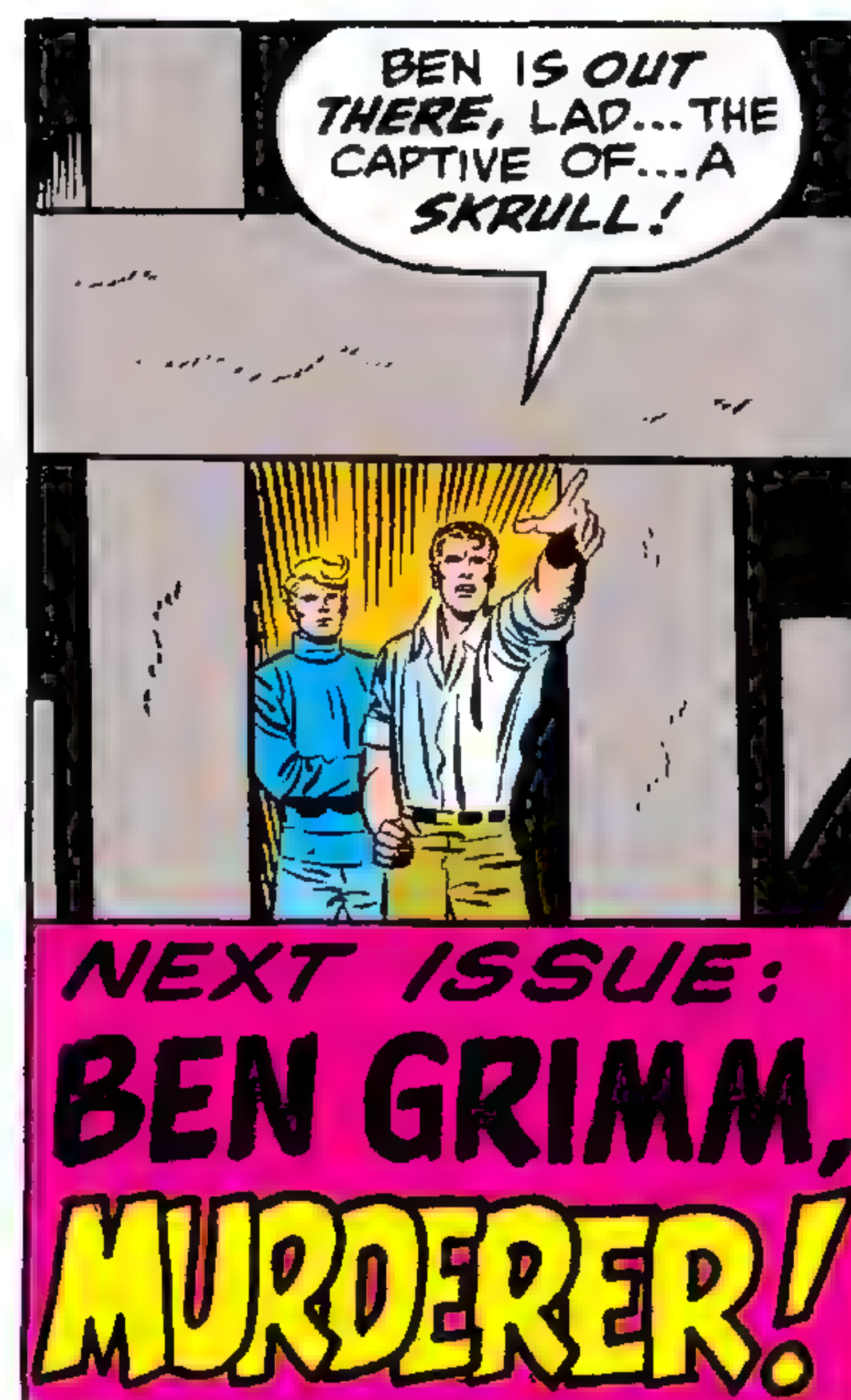
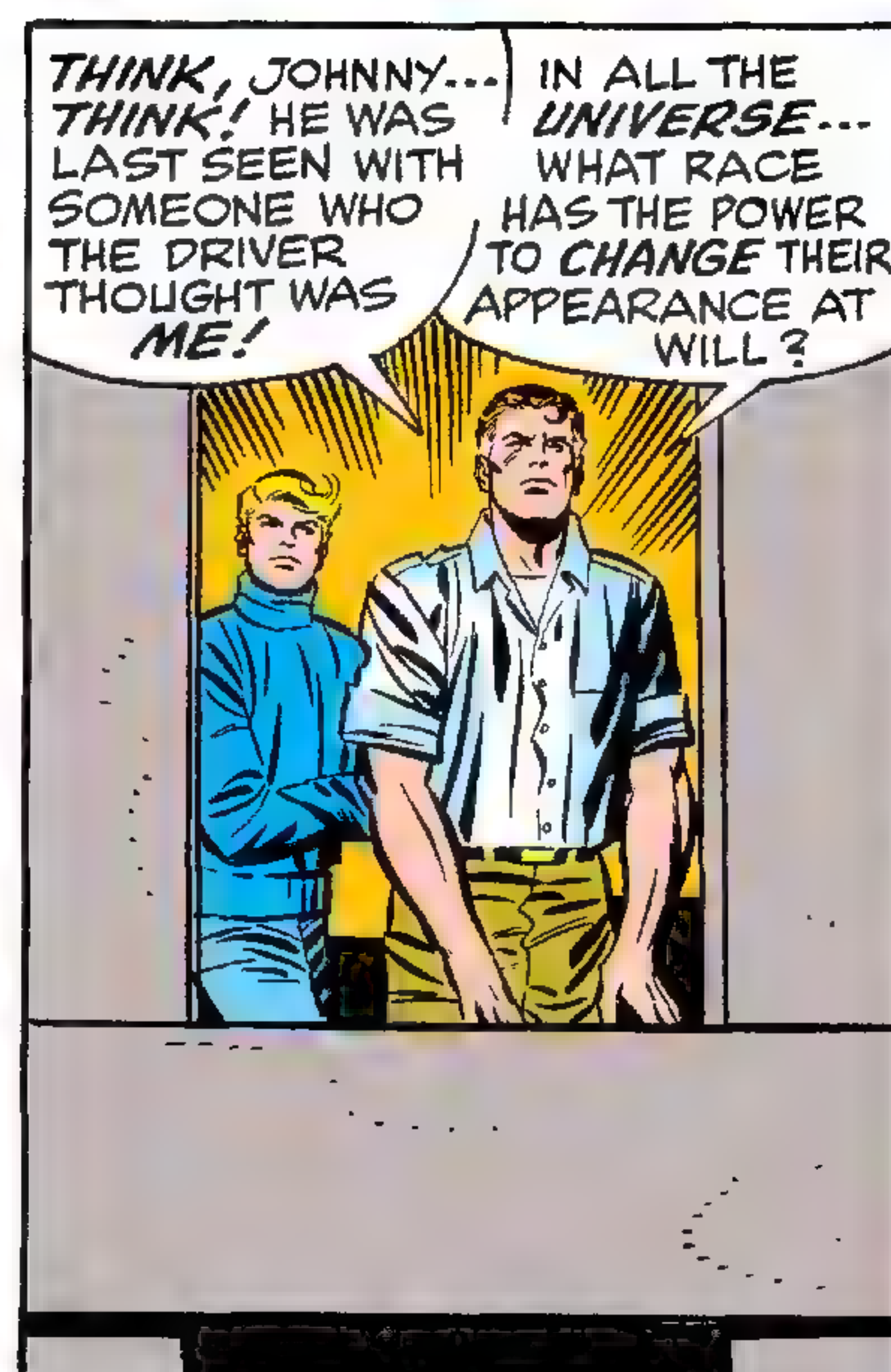
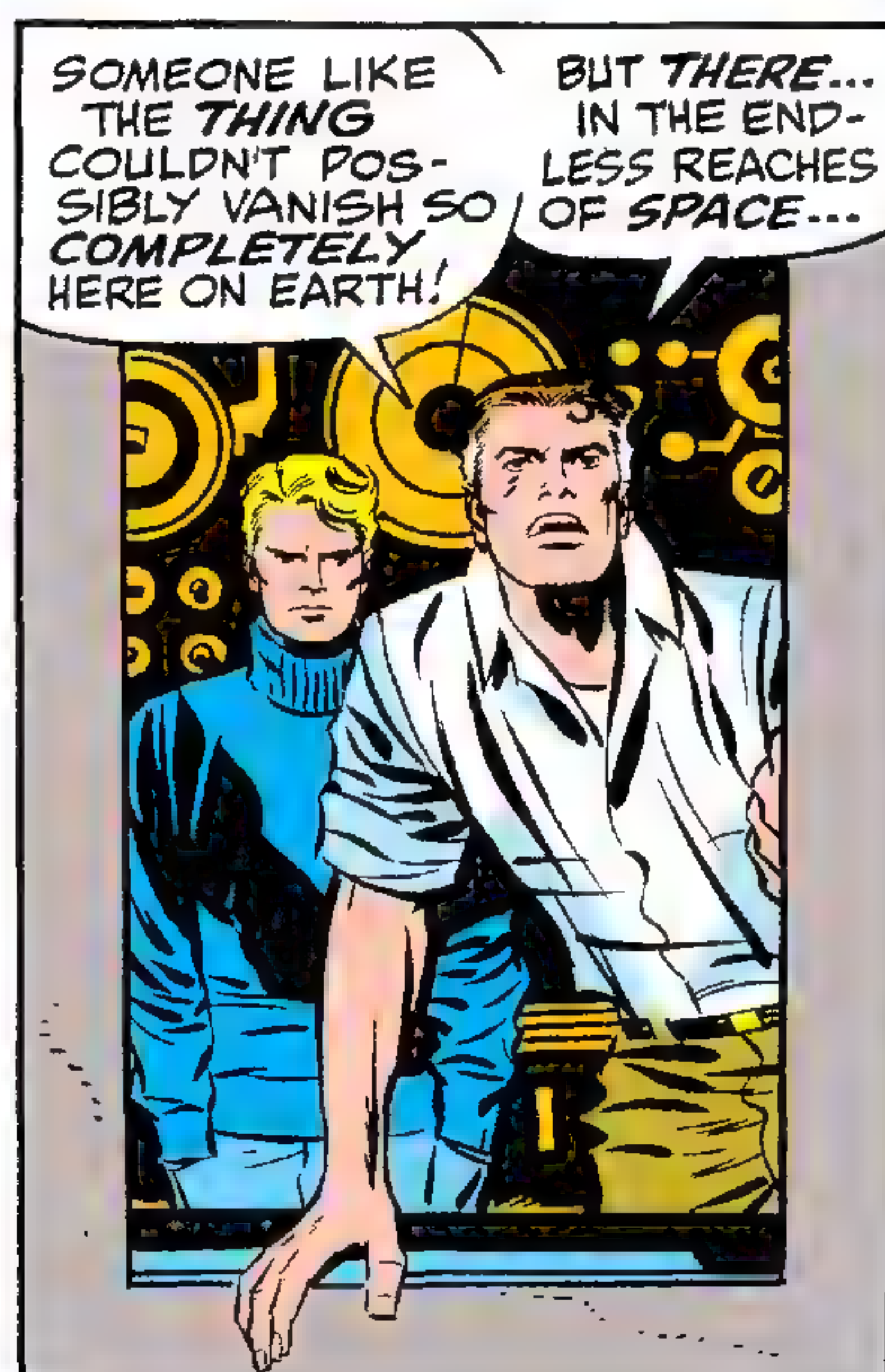
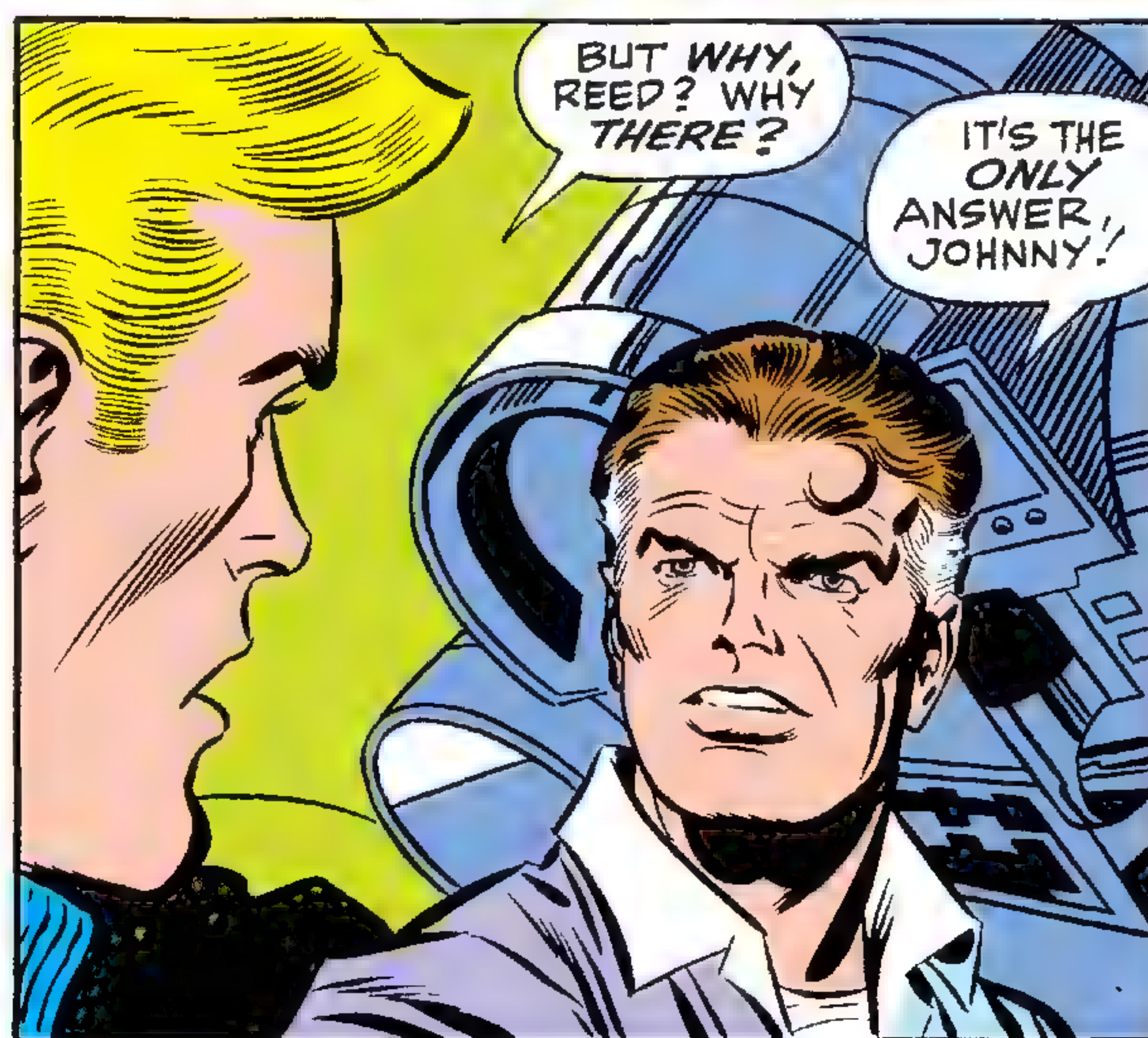
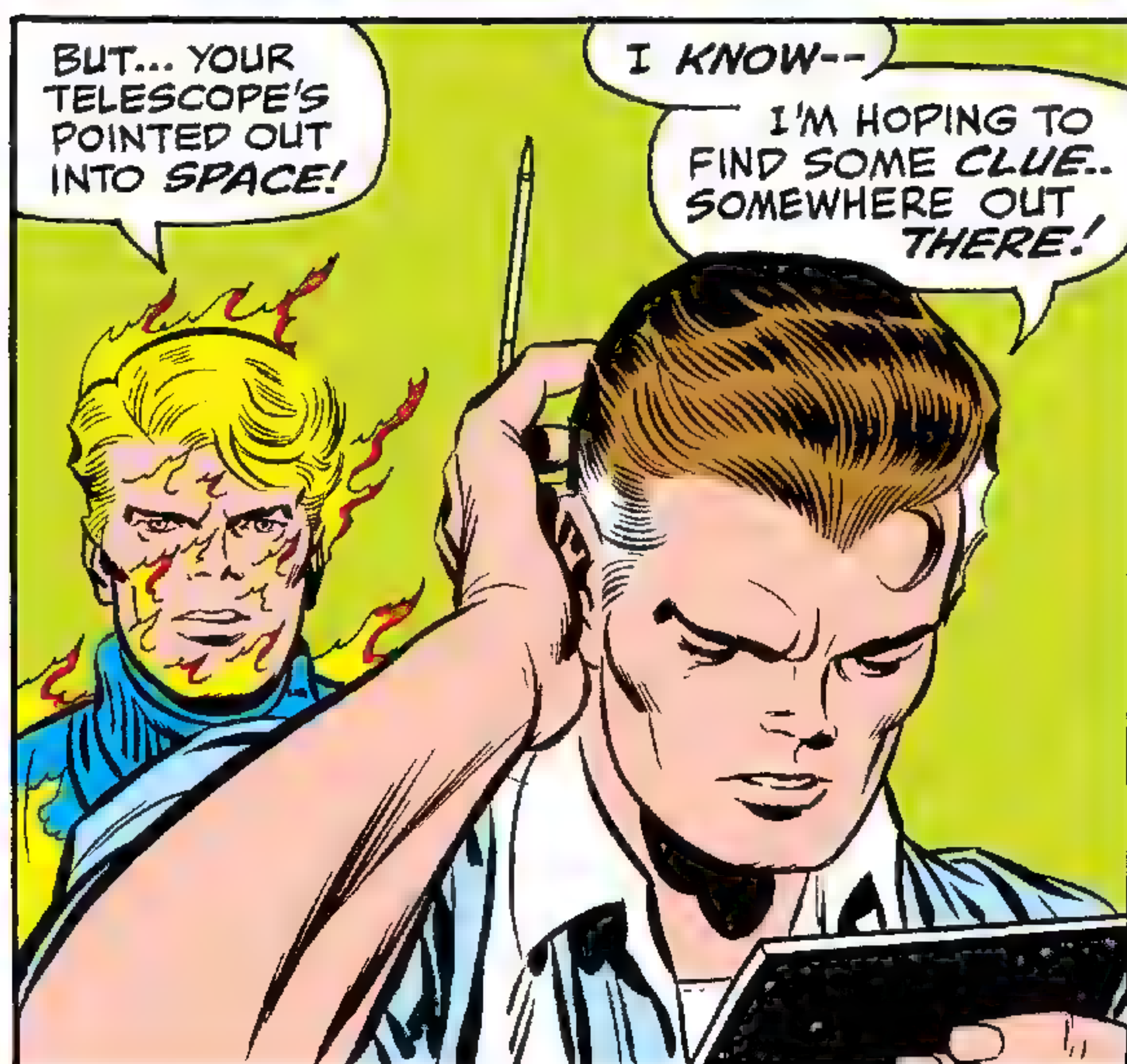
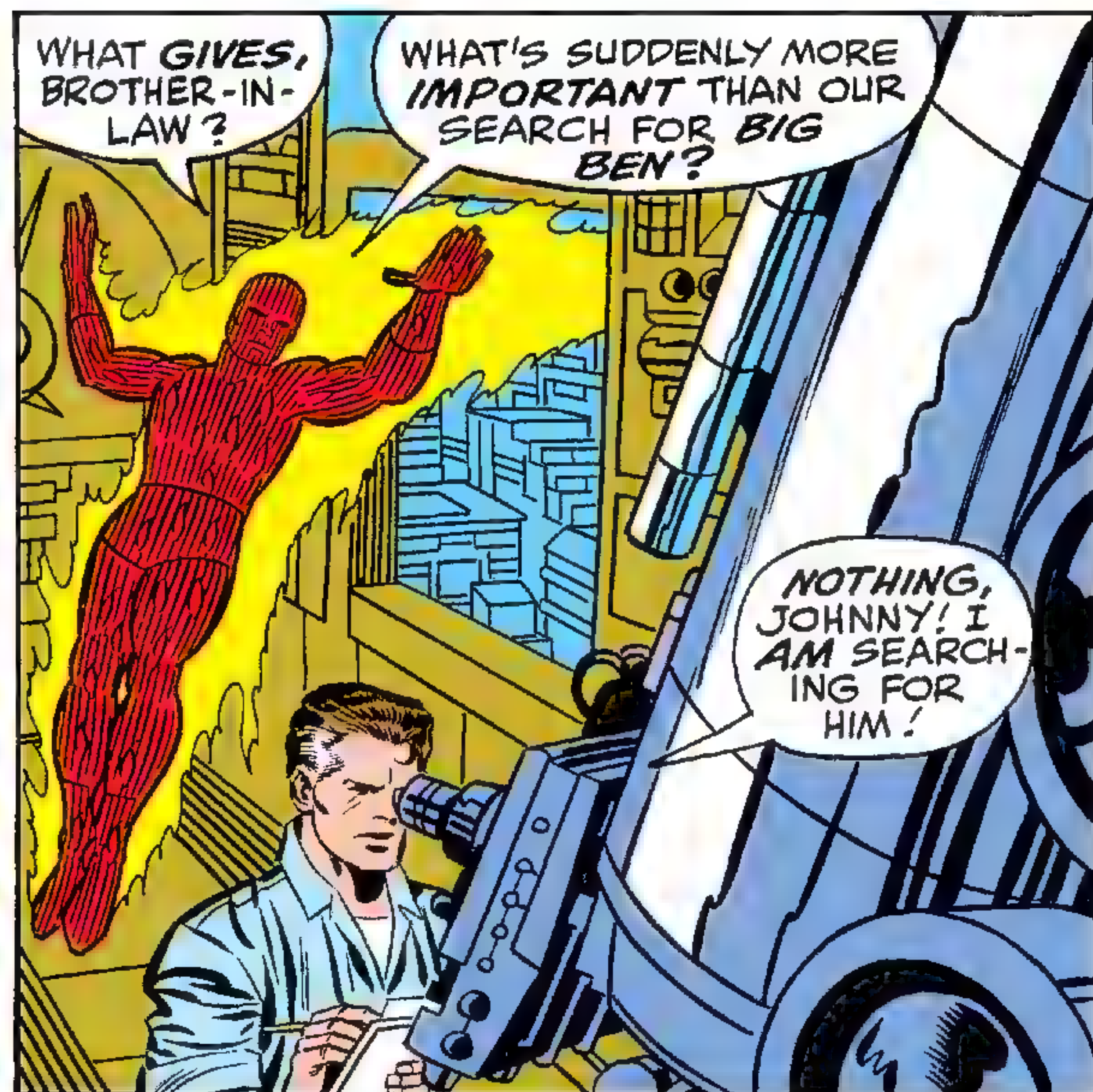
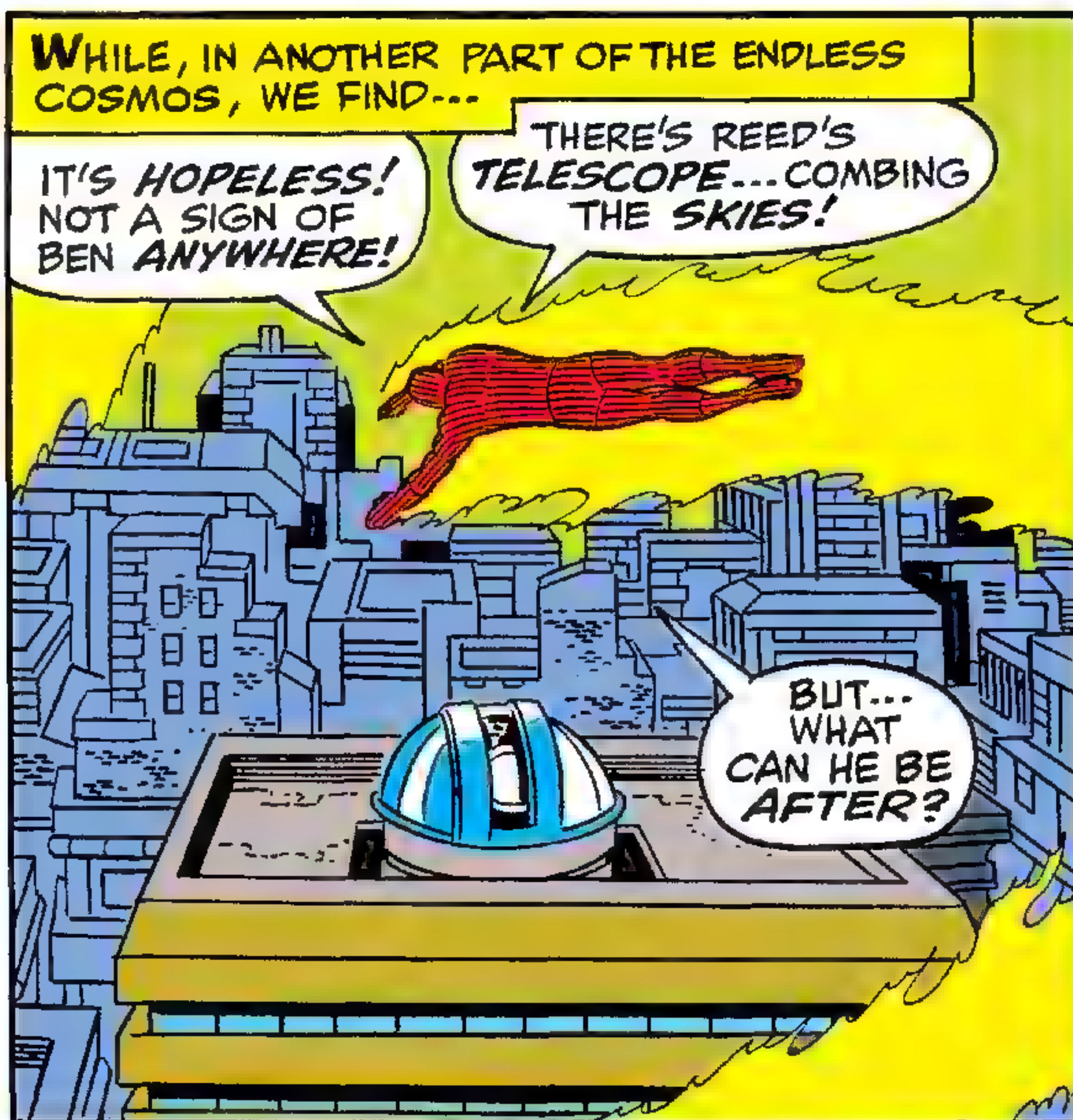
I AM BEING
TRAINED TO
SLAY MY FOE
WHEN THE GREAT
GAMES BEGIN!

YEAH?
THAT'S REAL
AMUSIN'!
WHO IS THE
POOR SHNOOK?



YOU KNOW
HIM WELL! HE
IS CALLED...
THE
THING!

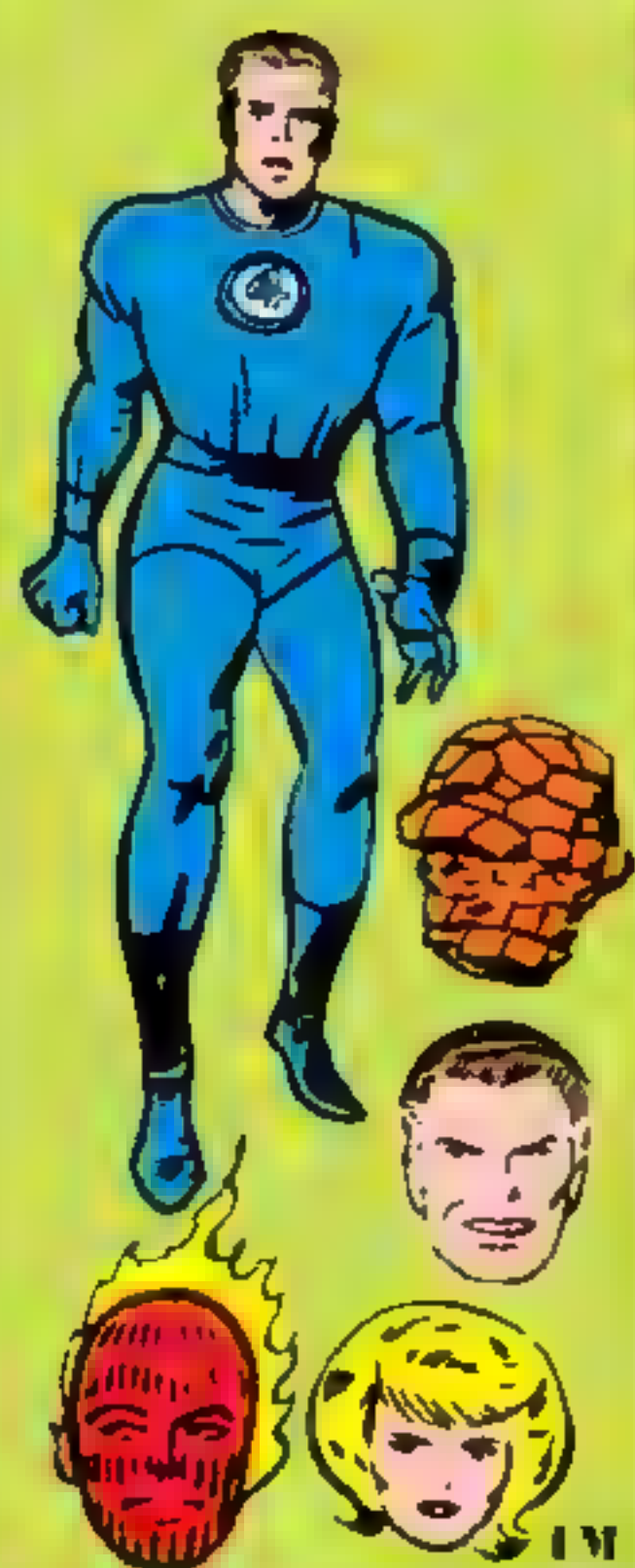
AND
ONLY YOUR
DEATH WILL
JUSTIFY MY
LIFE!



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FOUR

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92
NOV



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

NEW
BATTLER
IMPORTED
FOR
GAMES!
POWERFUL!
DANGEROUS!

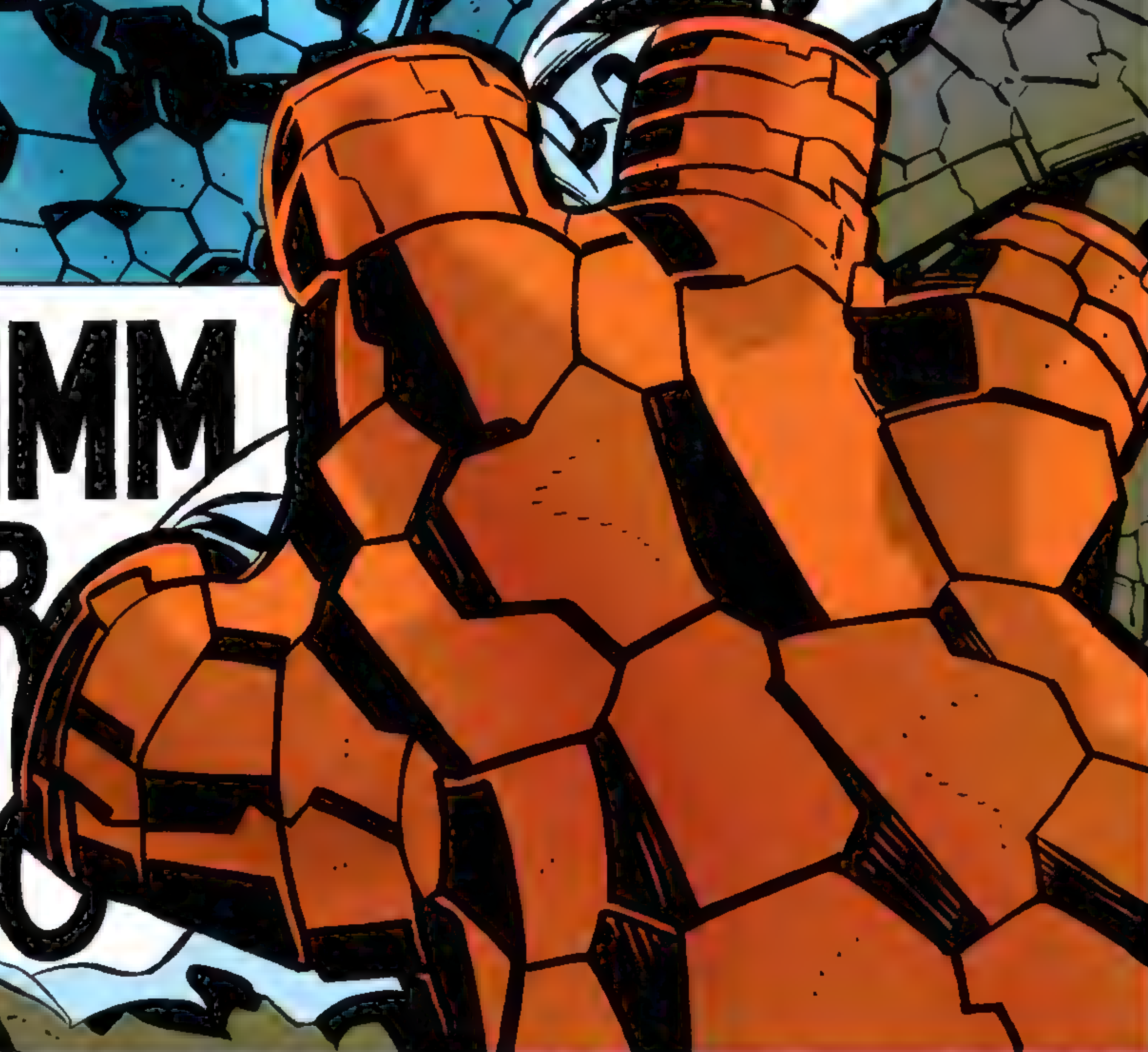
BEN GRIMM
KILLER
VS.
TORGO

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

Fantastic FOUR™

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

FIGHT NEWS



THE FABULOUS **F.F.**'S MOST POWERFUL MEMBER TURNS INTO...

BEN GRIMM KILLER!

ENSLAVED ON THE PLANET *KRAL*, DEEP WITHIN THE MYSTERIOUS *SKRULL* GALAXY, THE BROODING *THING* HELPLESSLY AWAITS THE START OF THE DEADLY *GREAT GAMES*...

IF I DIDN'T
KNOW BETTER,
I'D THINK I WUZ
DREAMIN'!

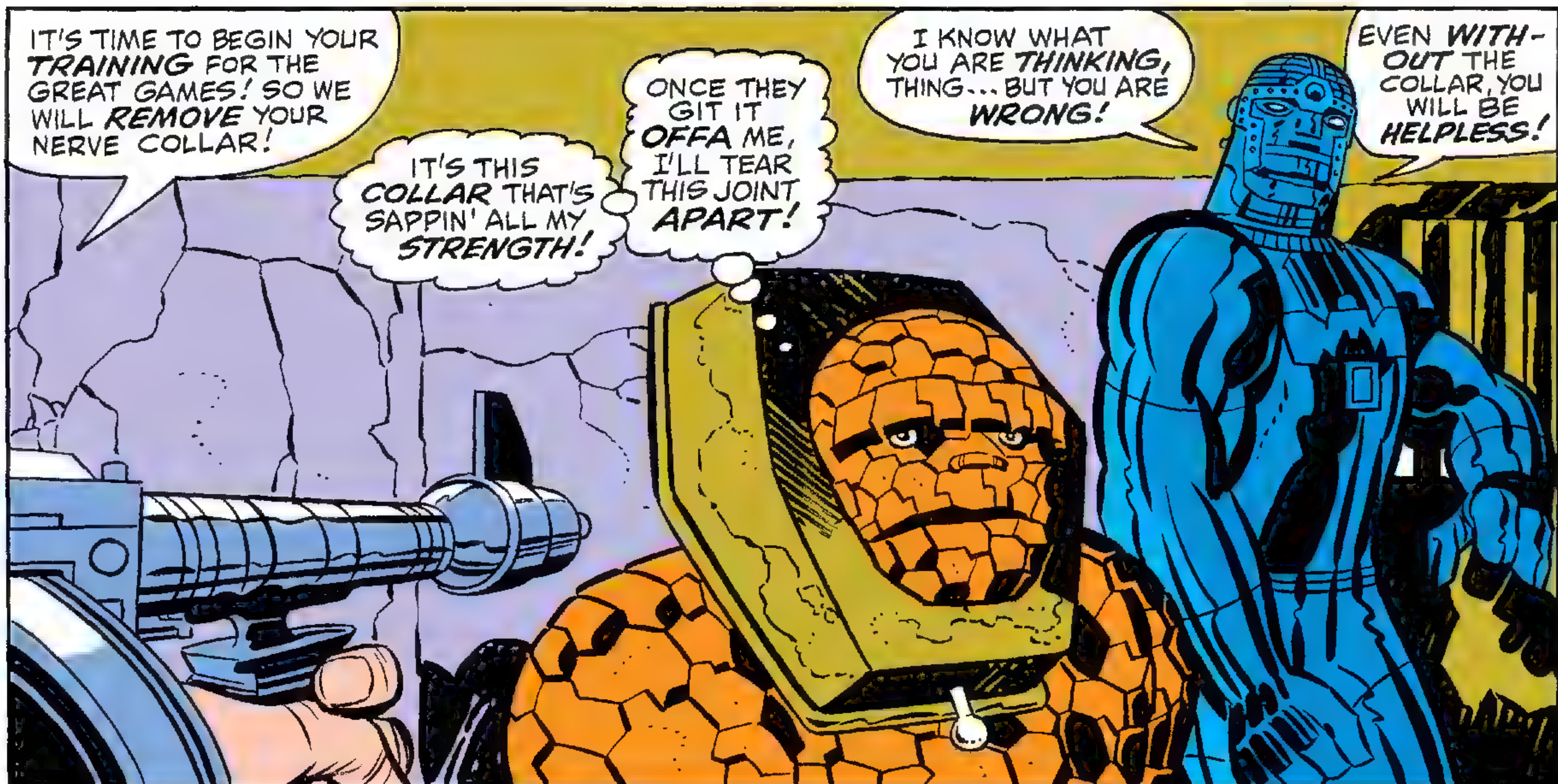
I'M MILLIONS OF
MILES FROM *EARTH*,
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I
LANDED ON THE SET
OF SOME NUTTY OLD-
TIME *GANGSTER*
MOVIE!

... 'CEPT I KNOW
THEM CORNBALLS
ARE FOR *REAL*!

By
STAN LEE
and
JACK KIRBY

EMBELLISHMENT:
JOE SINNOTT

LETTERING:
SAM ROSEN



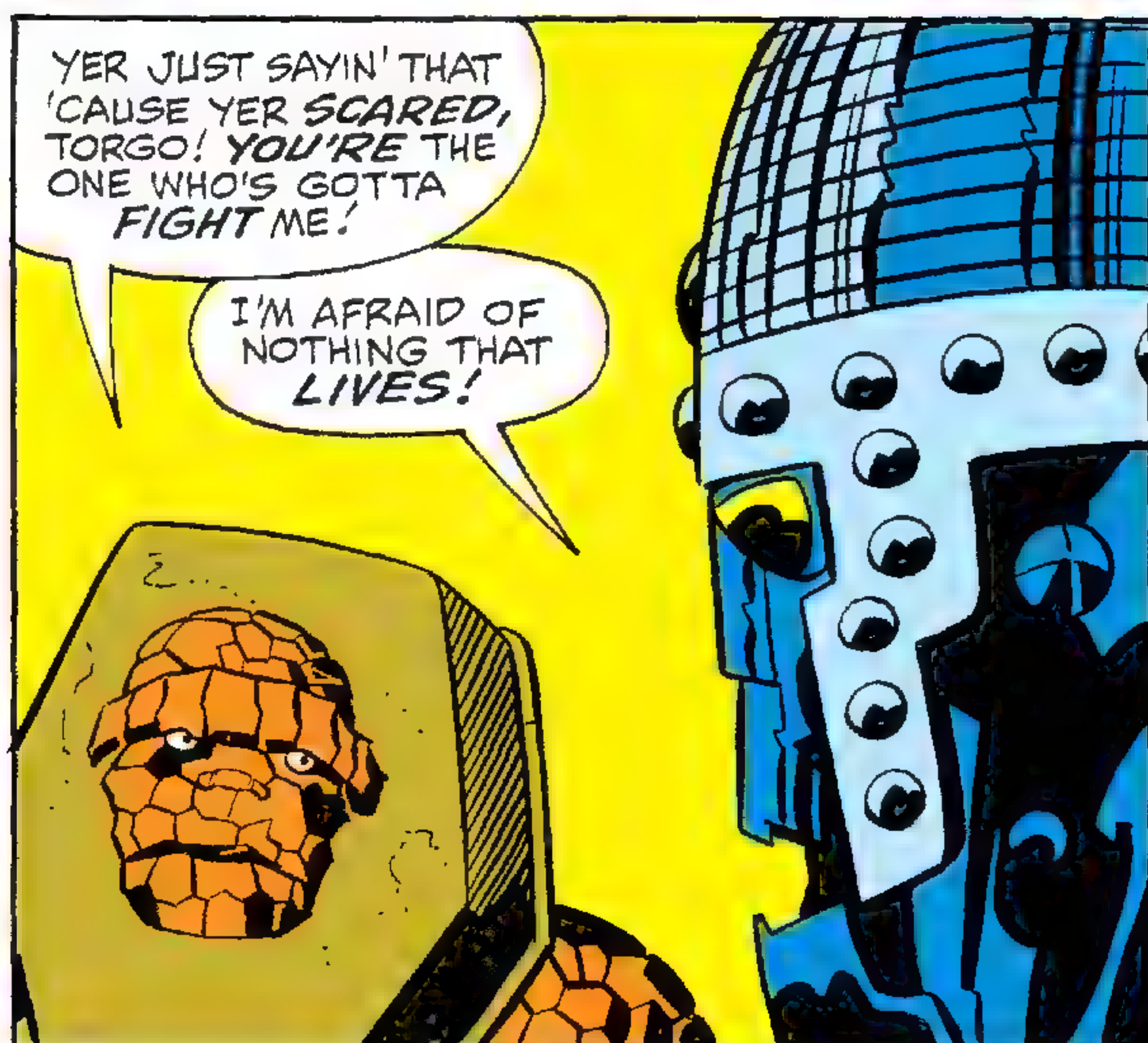
IT'S TIME TO BEGIN YOUR **TRAINING** FOR THE GREAT GAMES! SO WE WILL **REMOVE** YOUR NERVE COLLAR!

IT'S THIS **COLLAR** THAT'S SAPPIN' ALL MY **STRENGTH!**

ONCE THEY GIT IT **OFFA** ME, I'LL TEAR THIS JOINT **APART!**

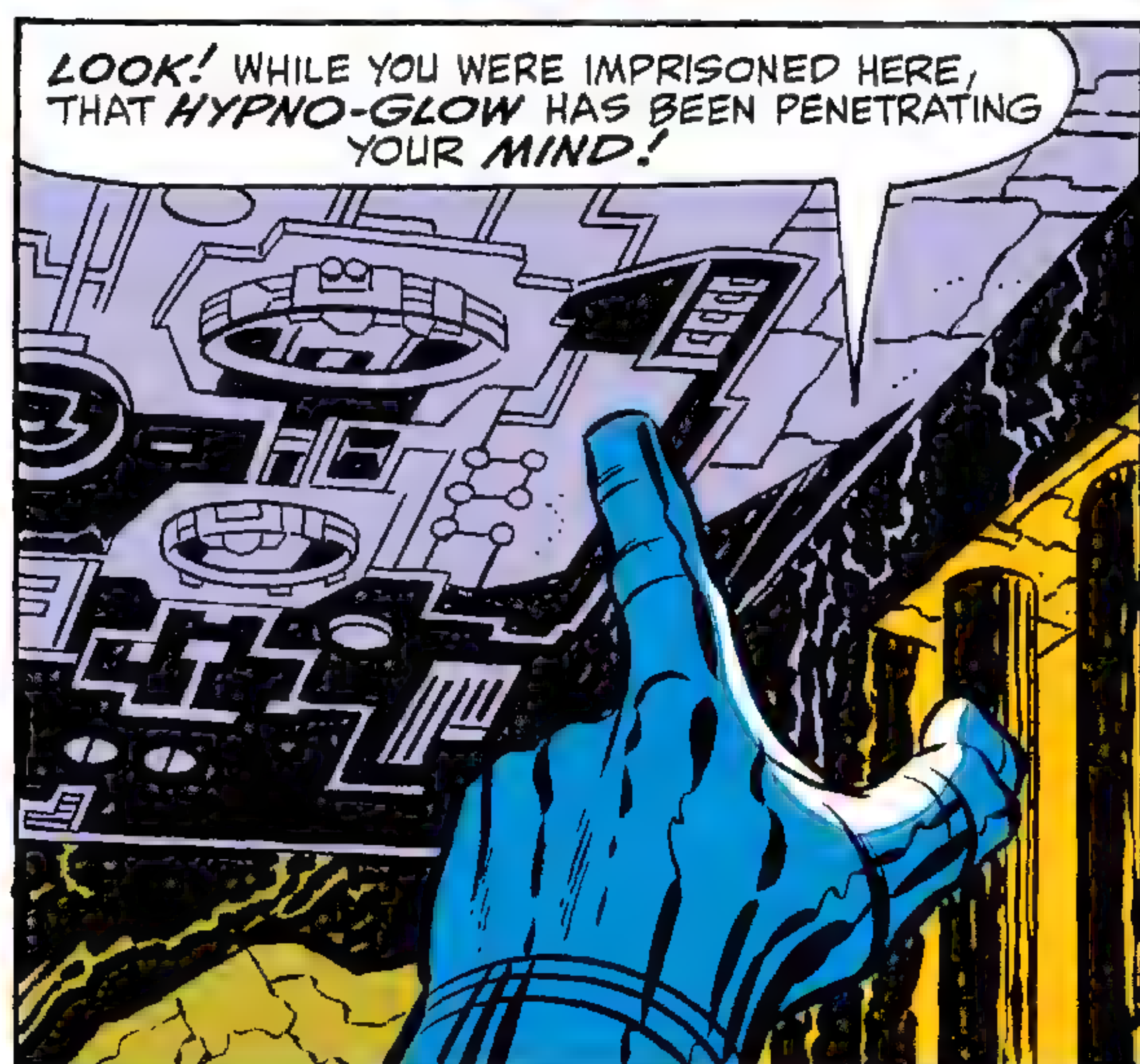
I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE **THINKING**, THING... BUT YOU ARE **WRONG!**

EVEN **WITH-OUT** THE COLLAR, YOU WILL BE **HELPLESS!**

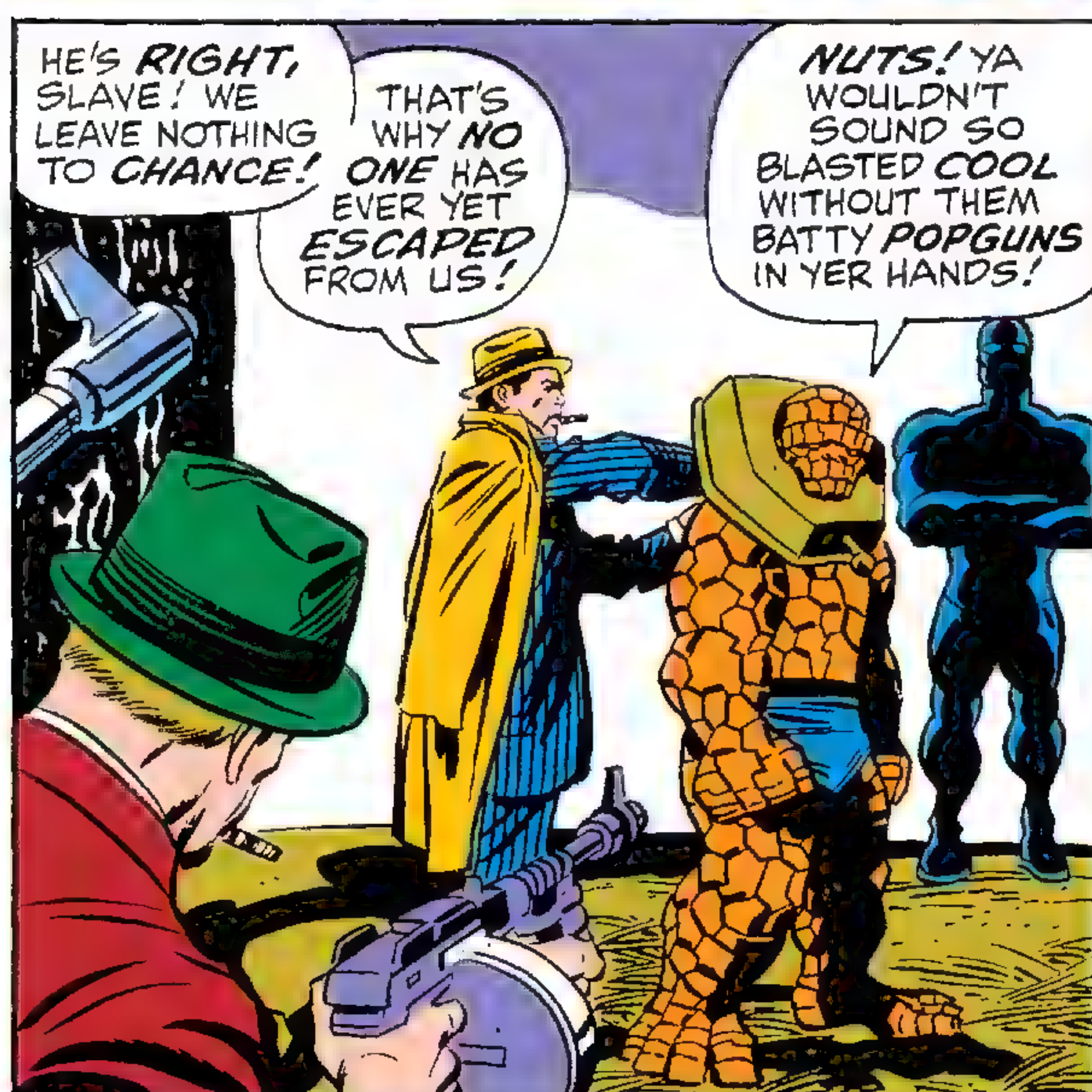


YER JUST SAYIN' THAT 'CAUSE YER **SCARED**, TORGIO! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOTTA **FIGHT** ME!

I'M AFRAID OF NOTHING THAT **LIVES!**



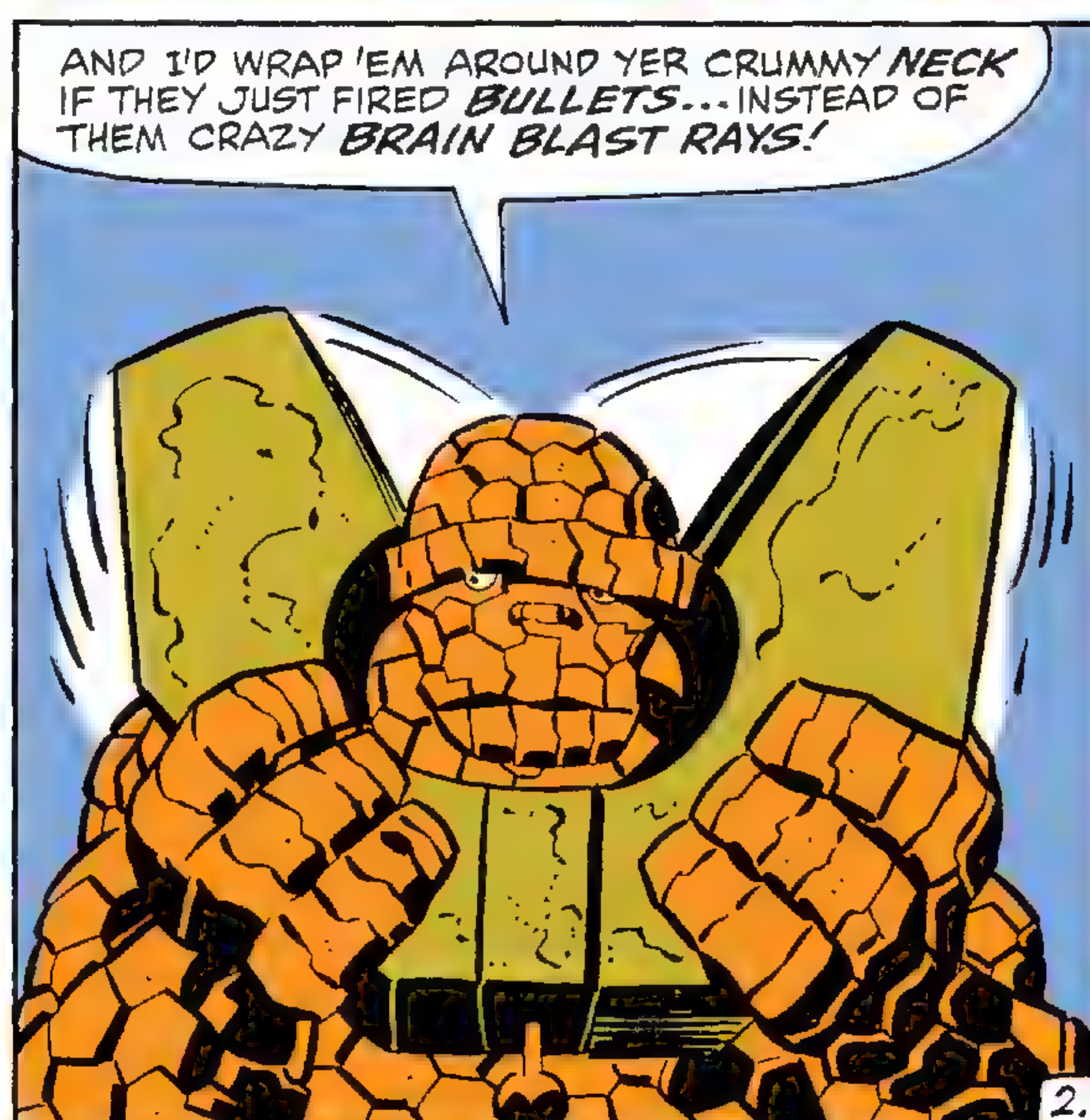
LOOK! WHILE YOU WERE IMPRISONED HERE, THAT **HYPNO-GLOW** HAS BEEN PENETRATING YOUR **MIND!**



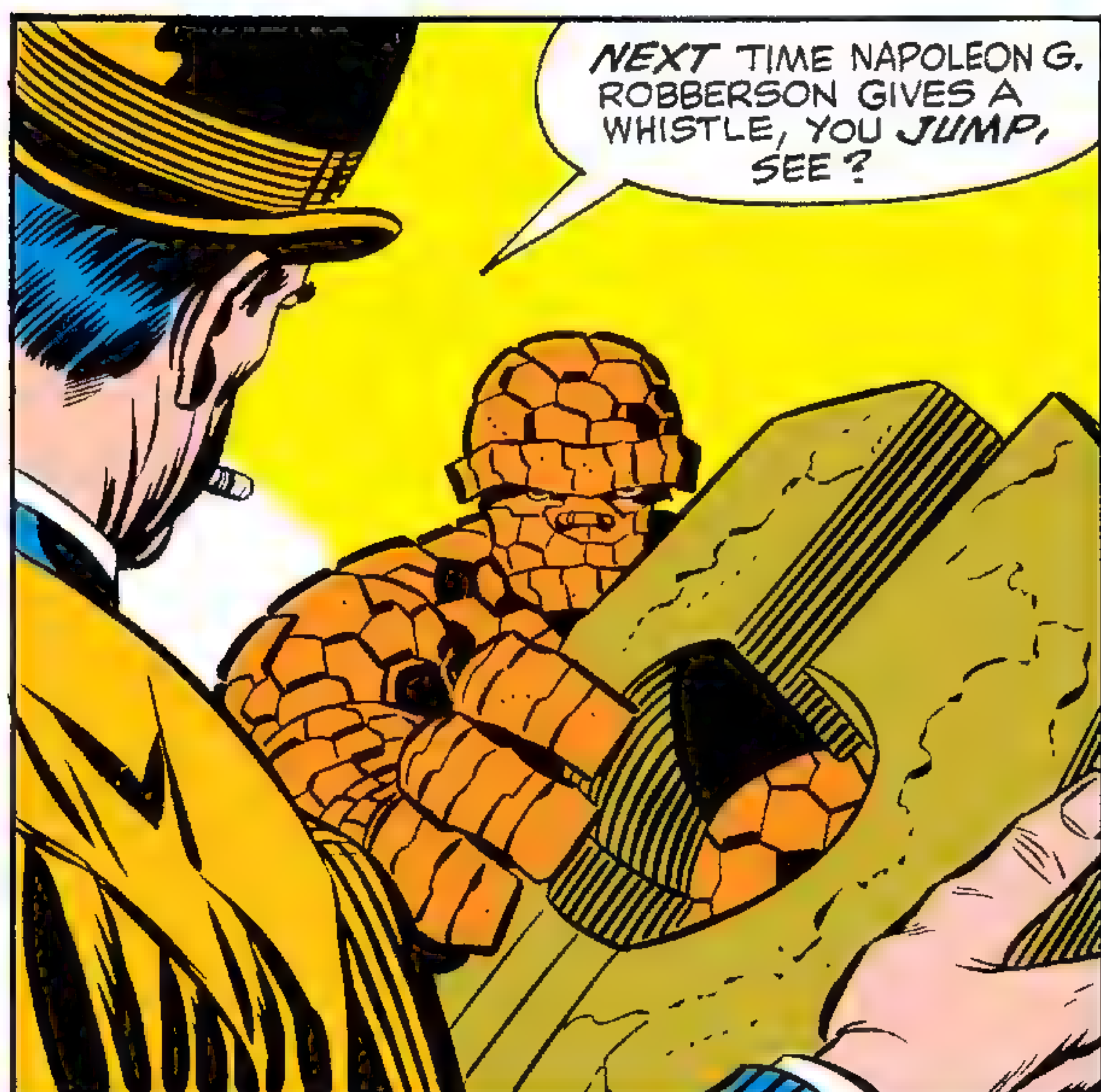
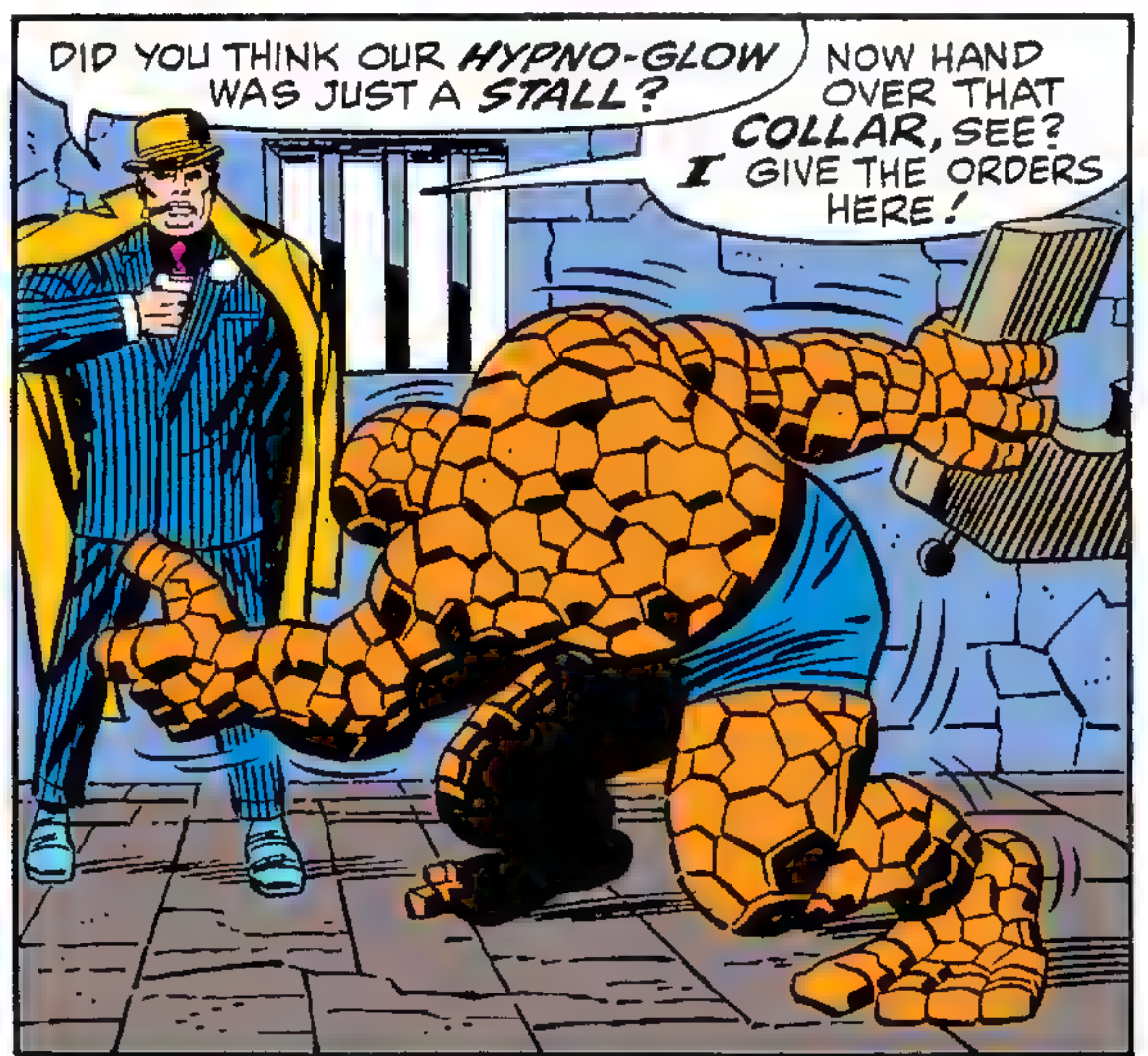
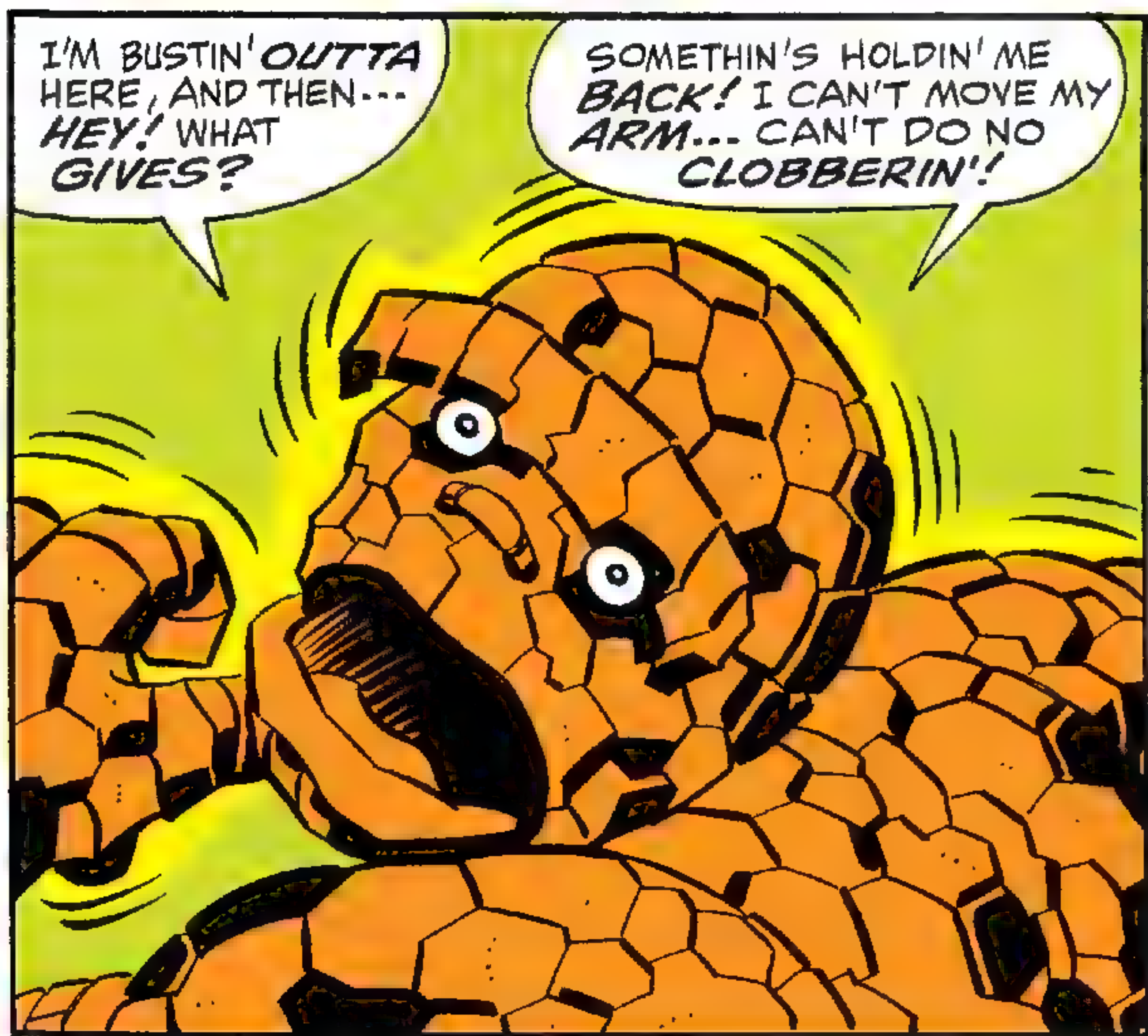
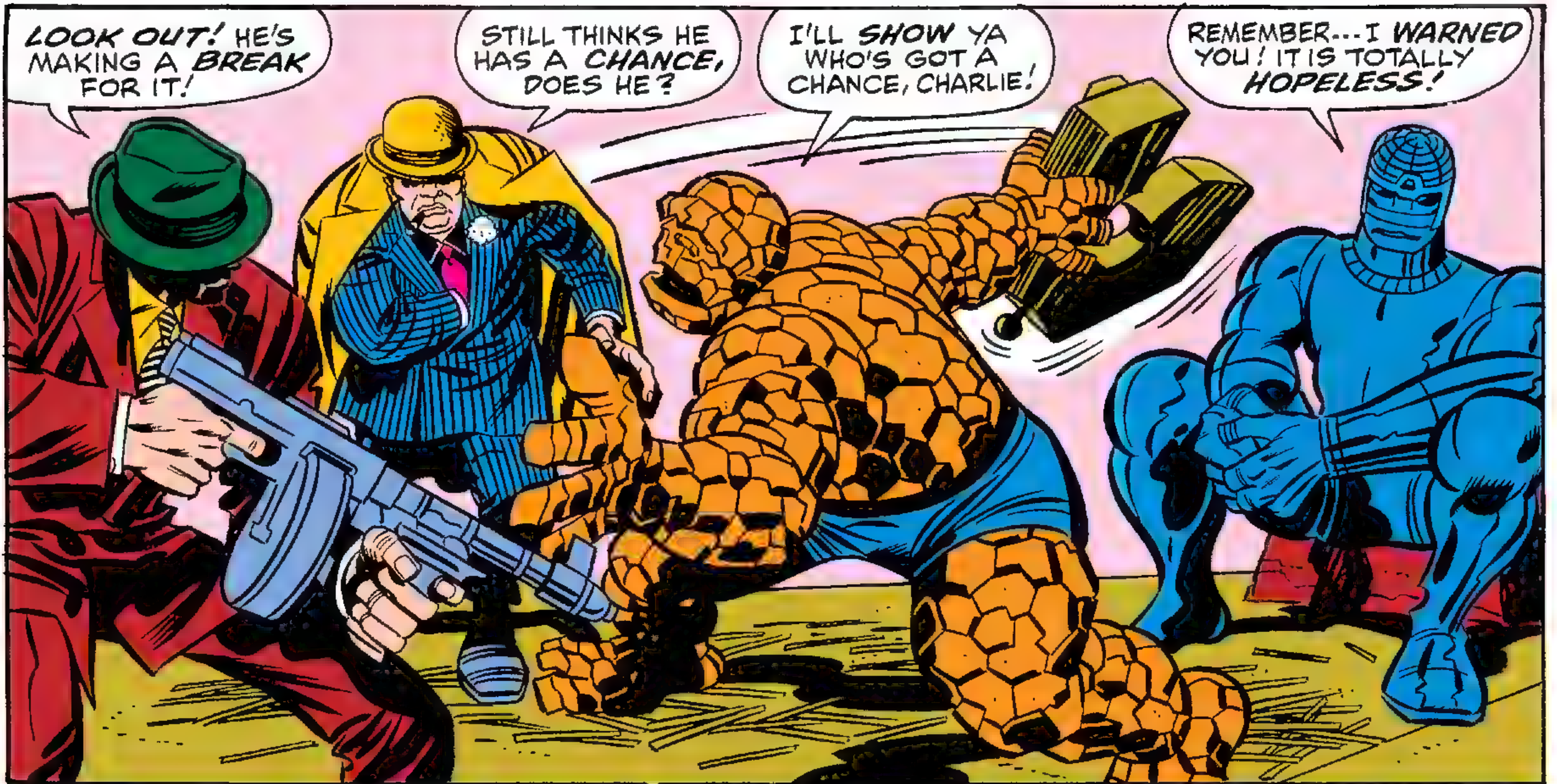
HE'S **RIGHT**, SLAVE! WE LEAVE NOTHING TO **CHANCE!**

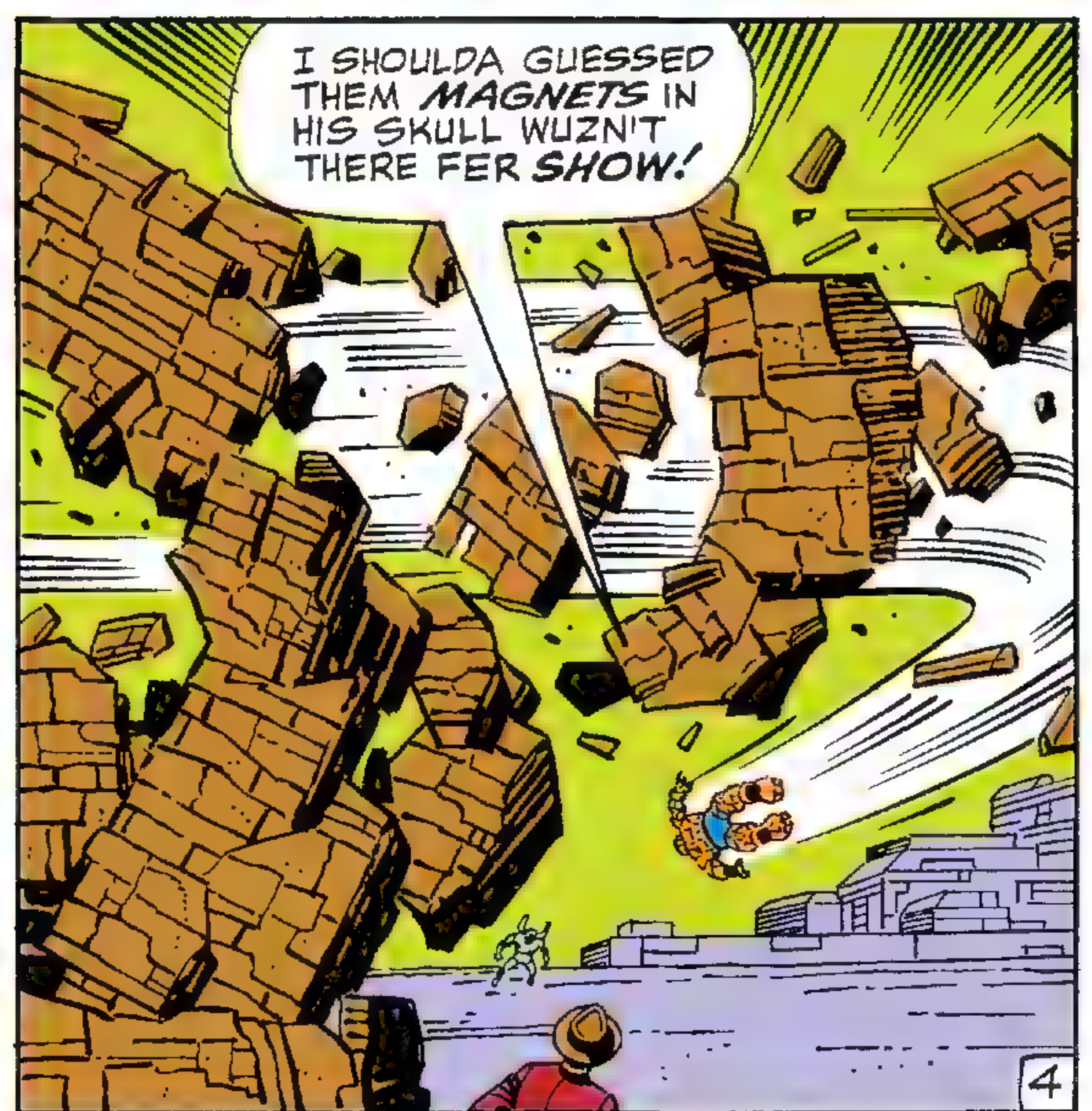
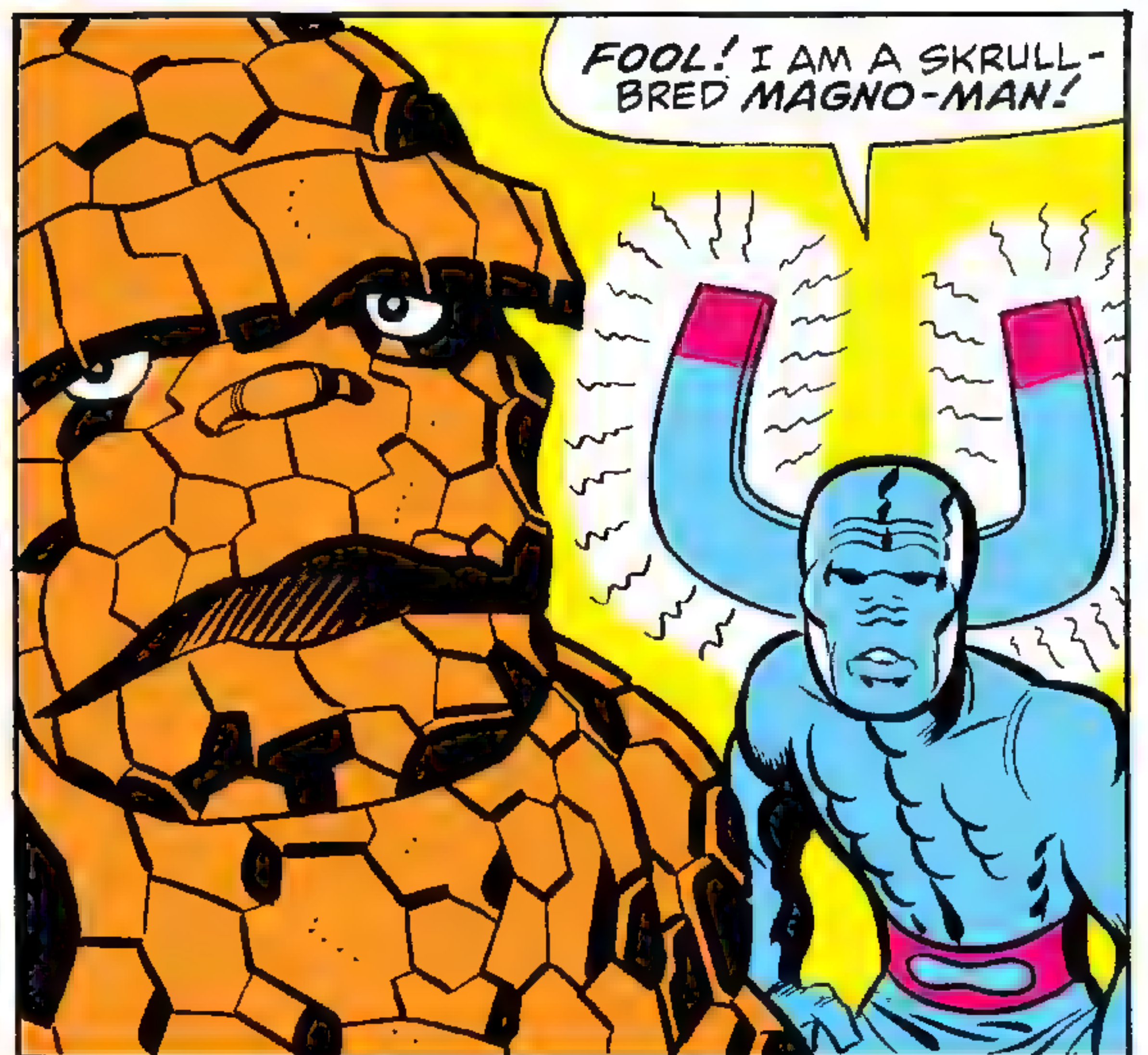
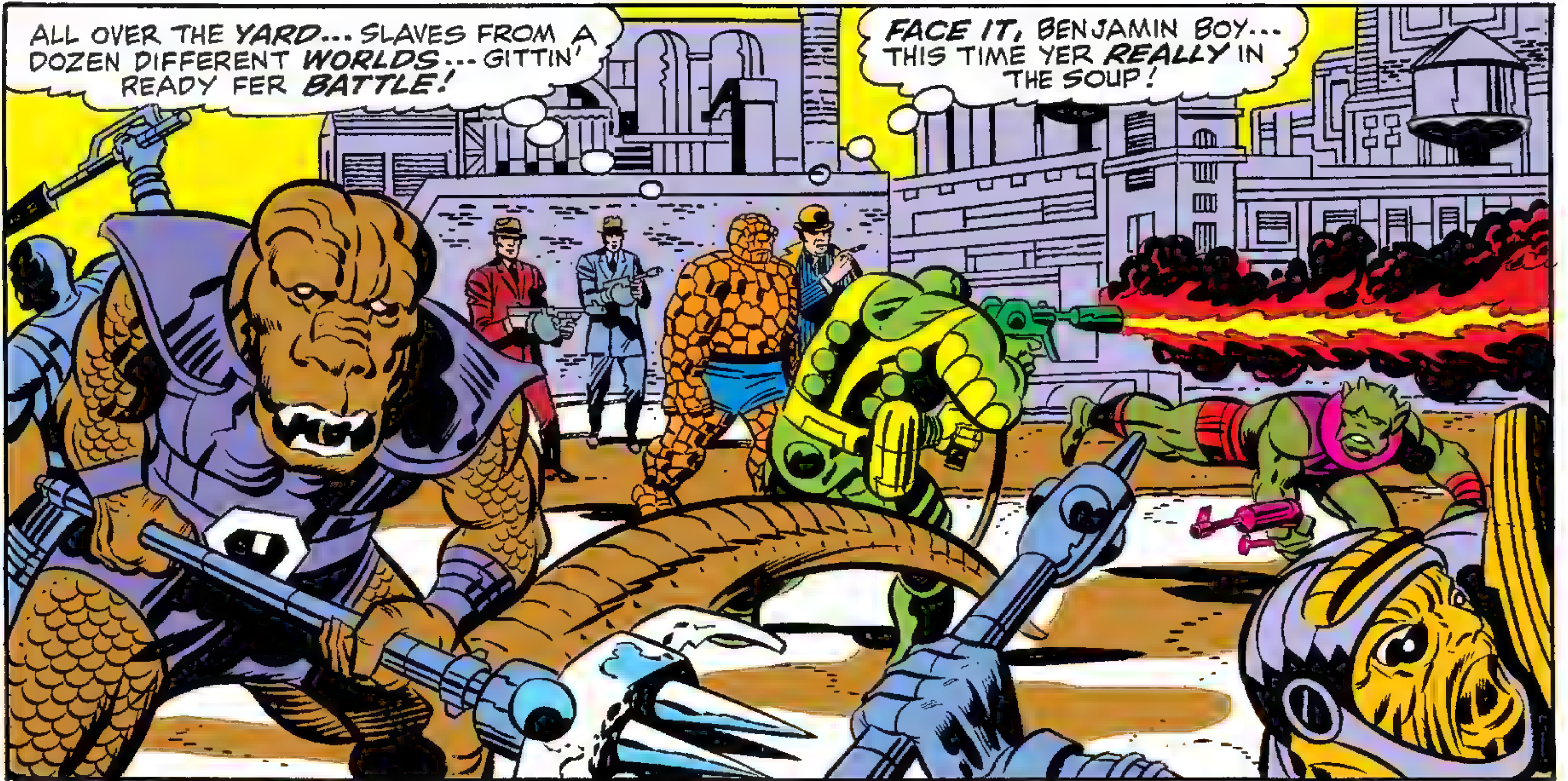
THAT'S WHY **NO** ONE HAS EVER YET **ESCAPED** FROM US!

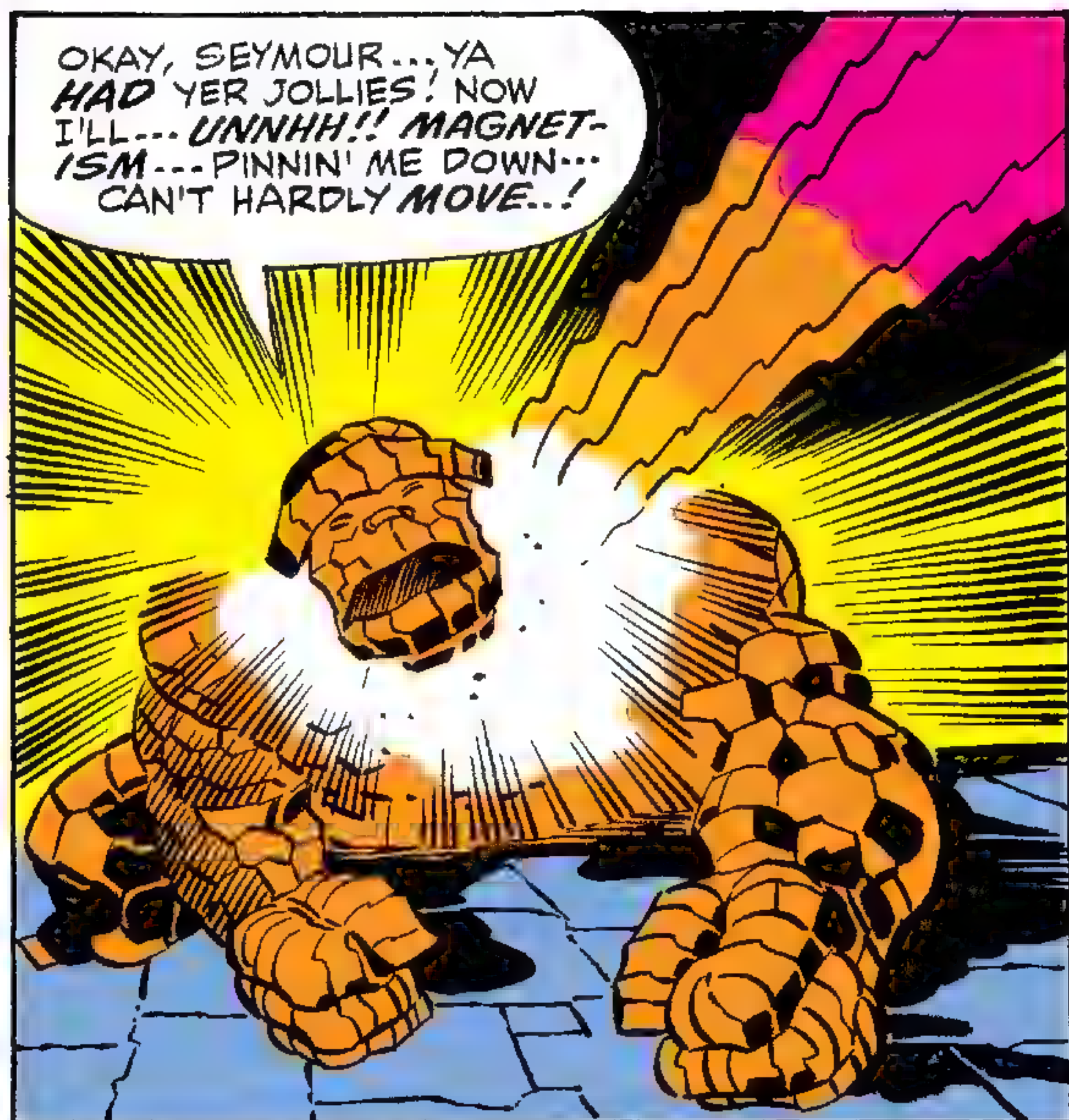
NUTS! YA WOULDN'T SOUND SO **BLASTED COOL** WITHOUT THEM **BATTY POPGUNS** IN YER HANDS!



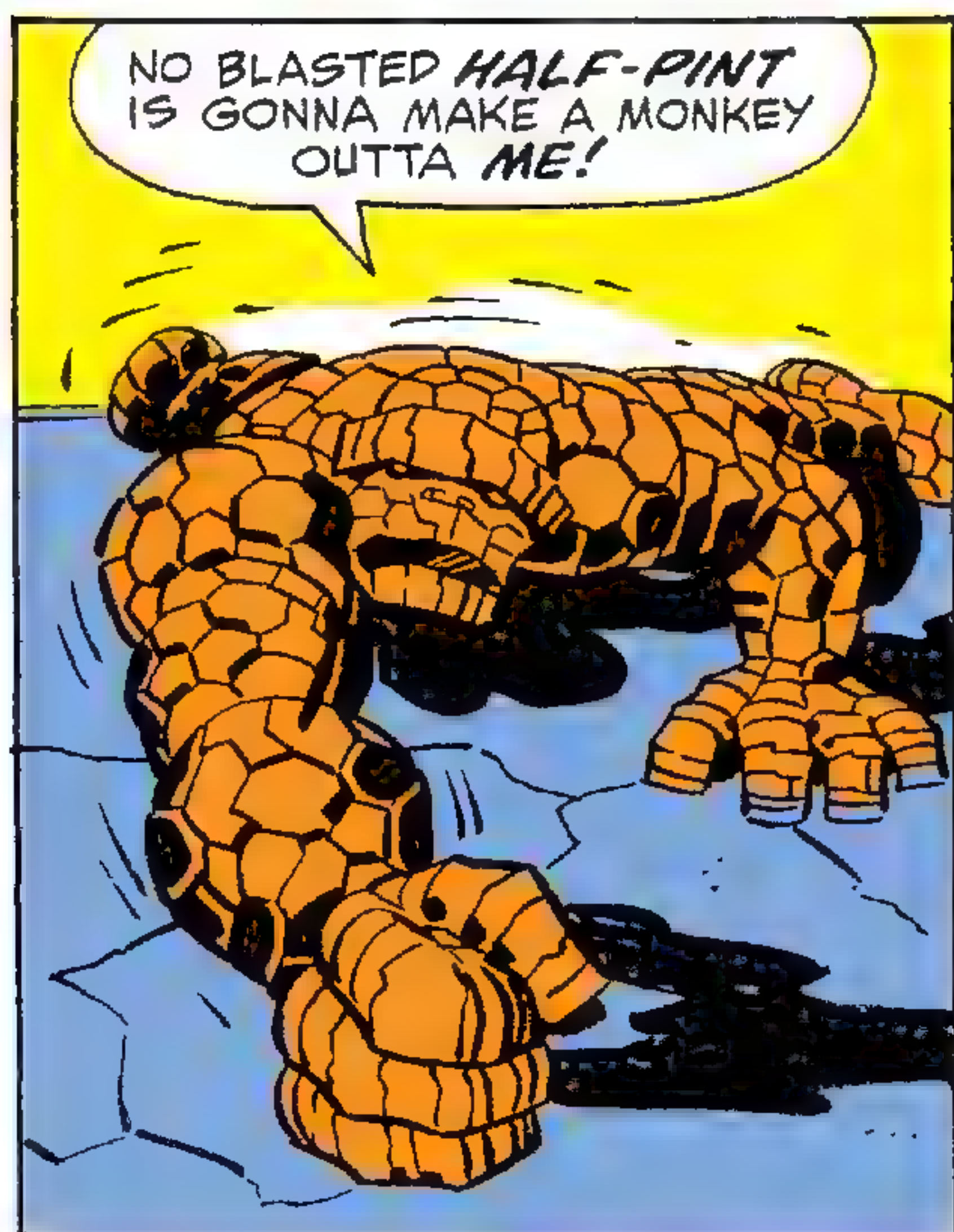
AND I'D WRAP 'EM AROUND YER **CRUMMY NECK** IF THEY JUST FIRED **BULLETS**... INSTEAD OF THEM CRAZY **BRAIN BLAST RAYS!**



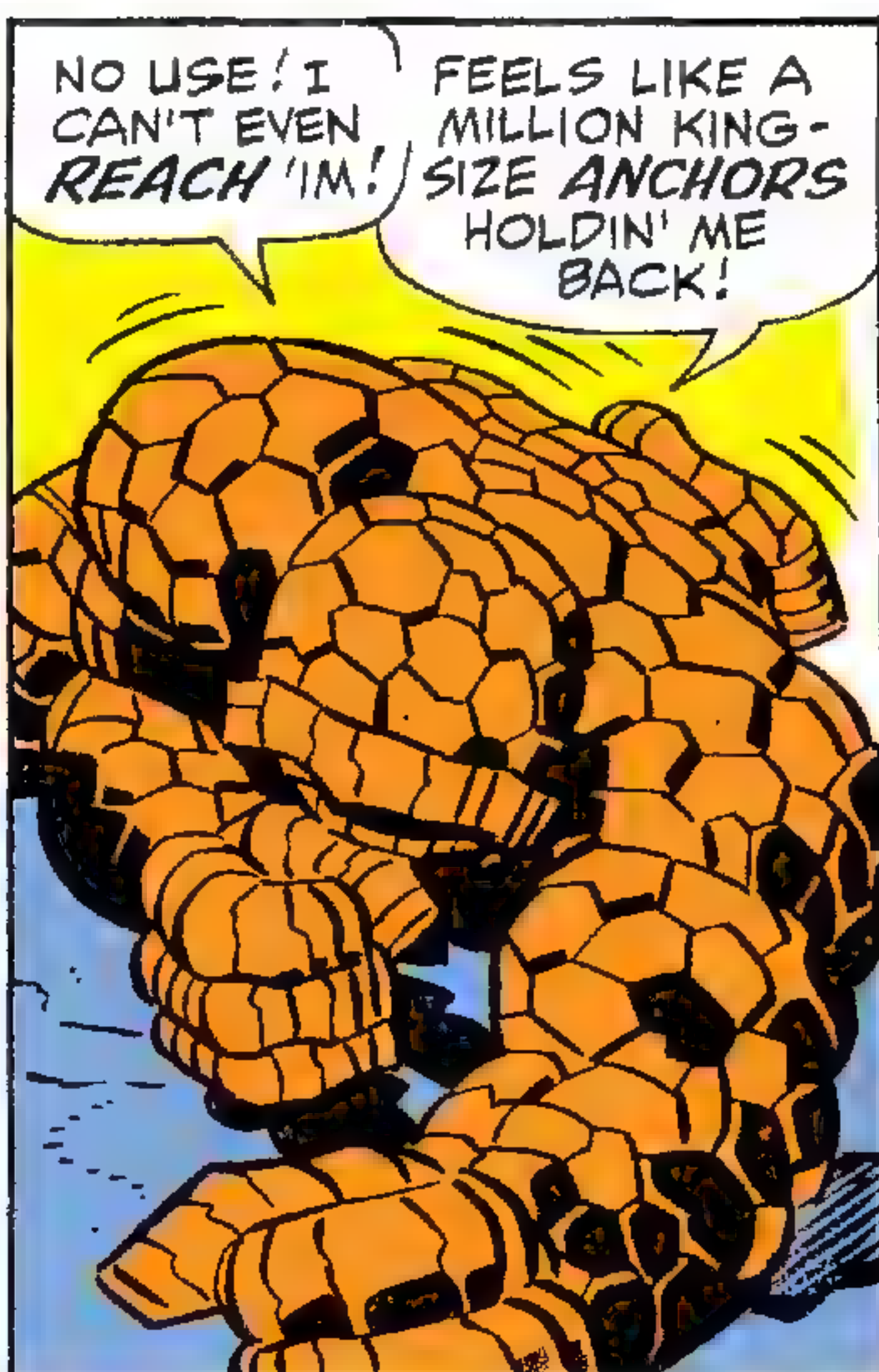




OKAY, SEYMOUR... YA
HAD YER JOLLIES! NOW
I'LL... UNNHH!! MAGNET-
ISM... PINNIN' ME DOWN...
CAN'T HARDLY MOVE..!



NO BLASTED *HALF-PINT*
IS GONNA MAKE A MONKEY
OUTTA *ME!*

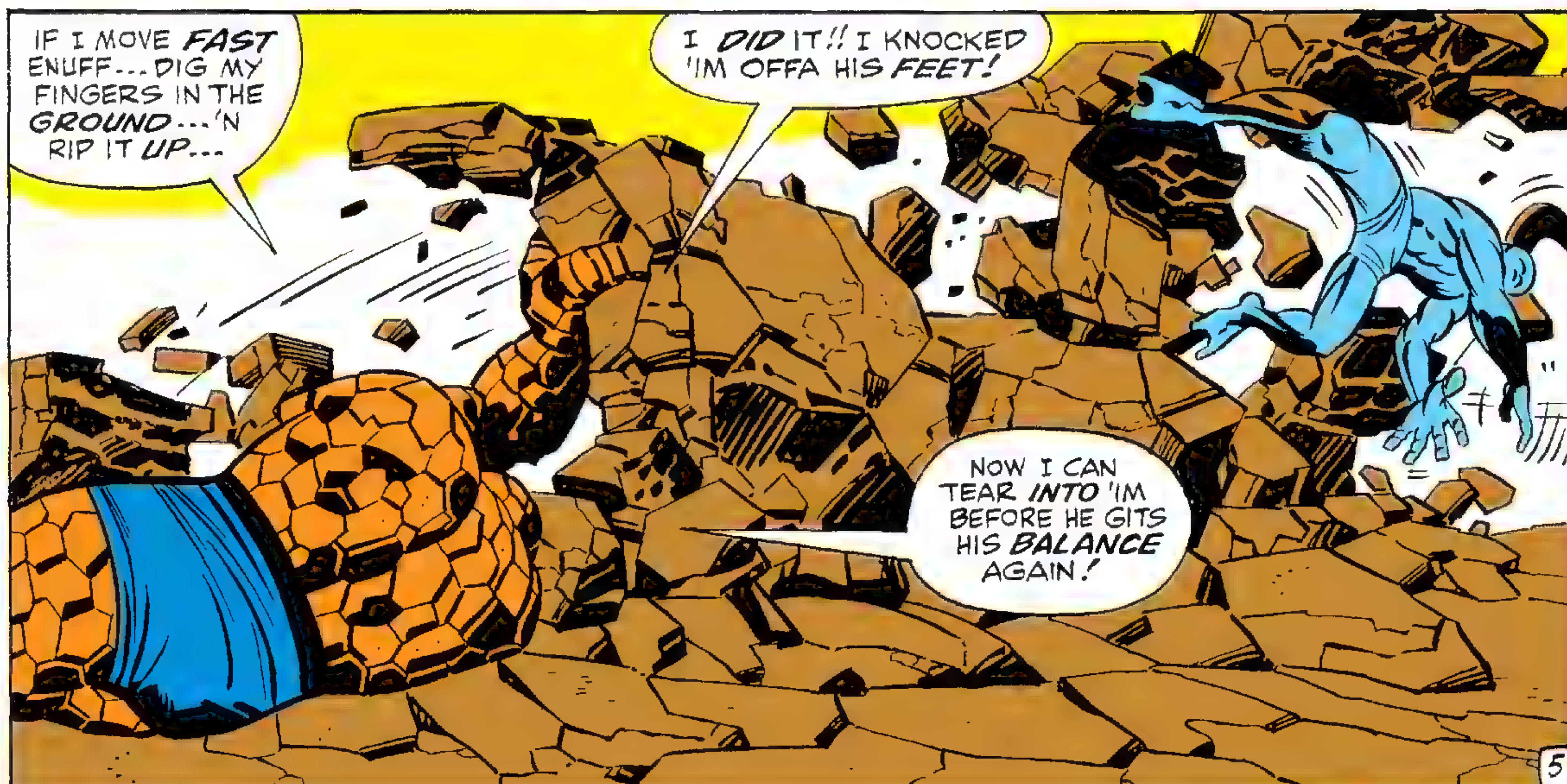


NO USE! I
CAN'T EVEN
REACH 'IM!

FEELS LIKE A
MILLION KING-
SIZE *ANCHORS*
HOLDIN' ME
BACK!



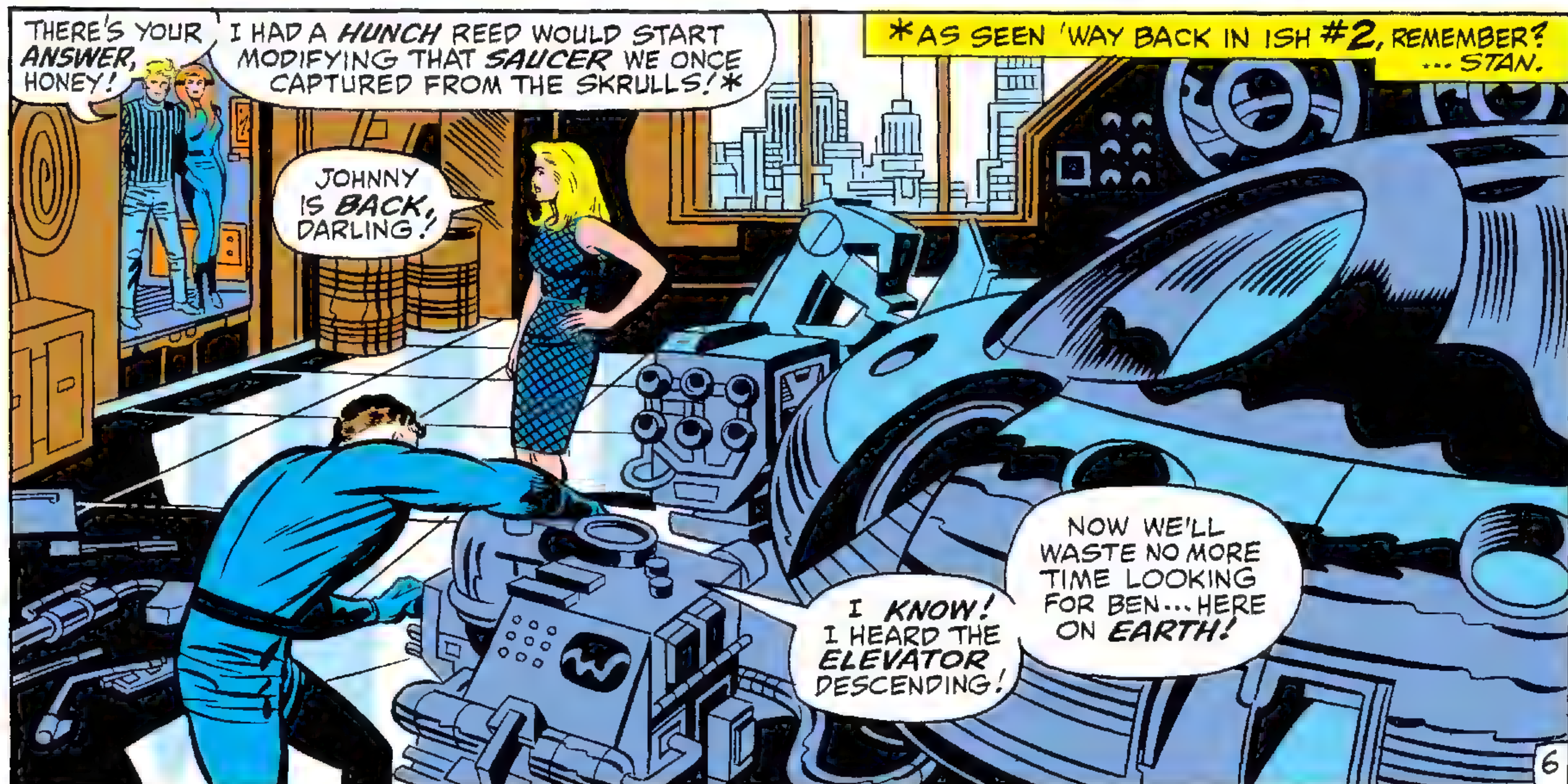
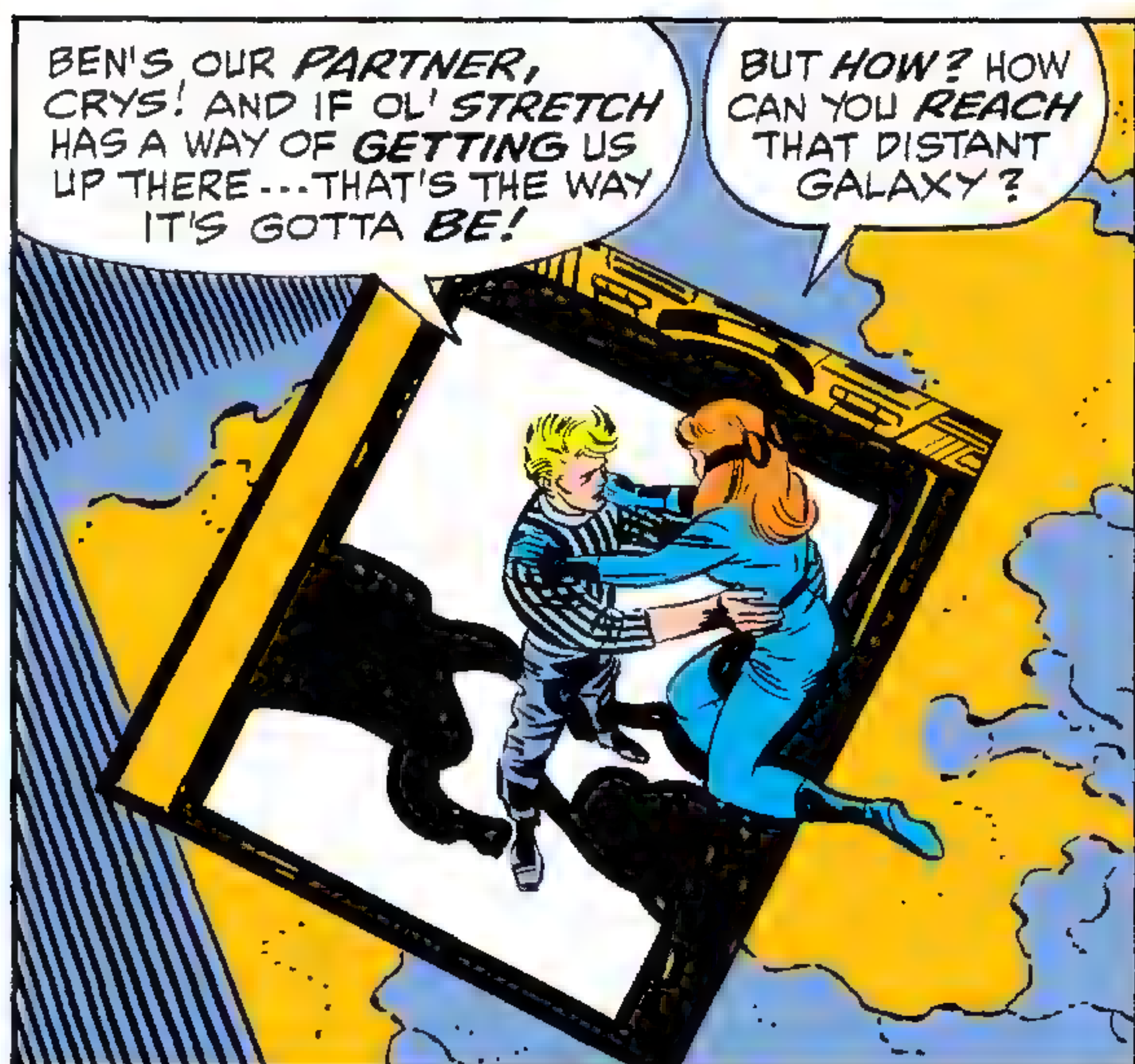
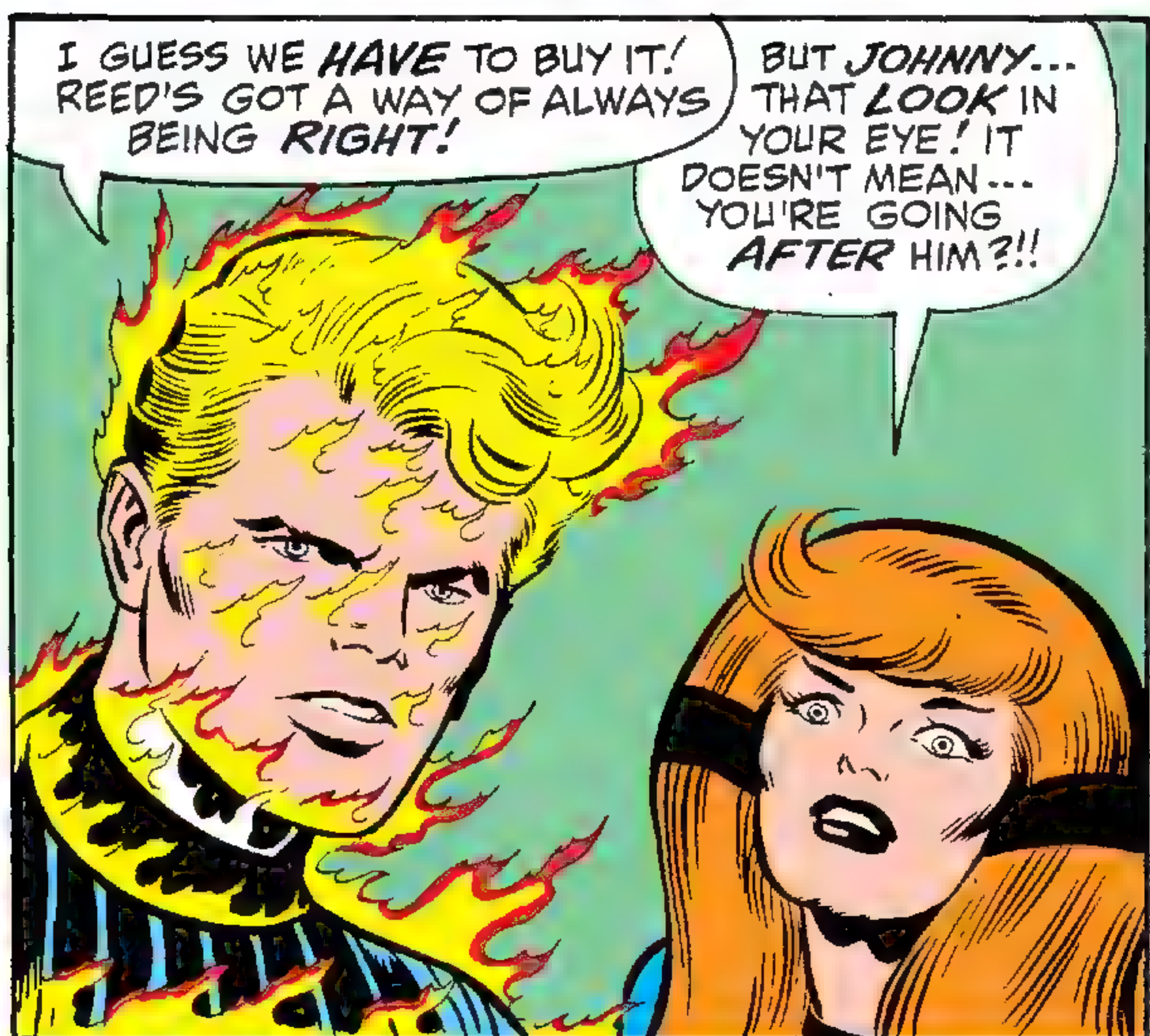
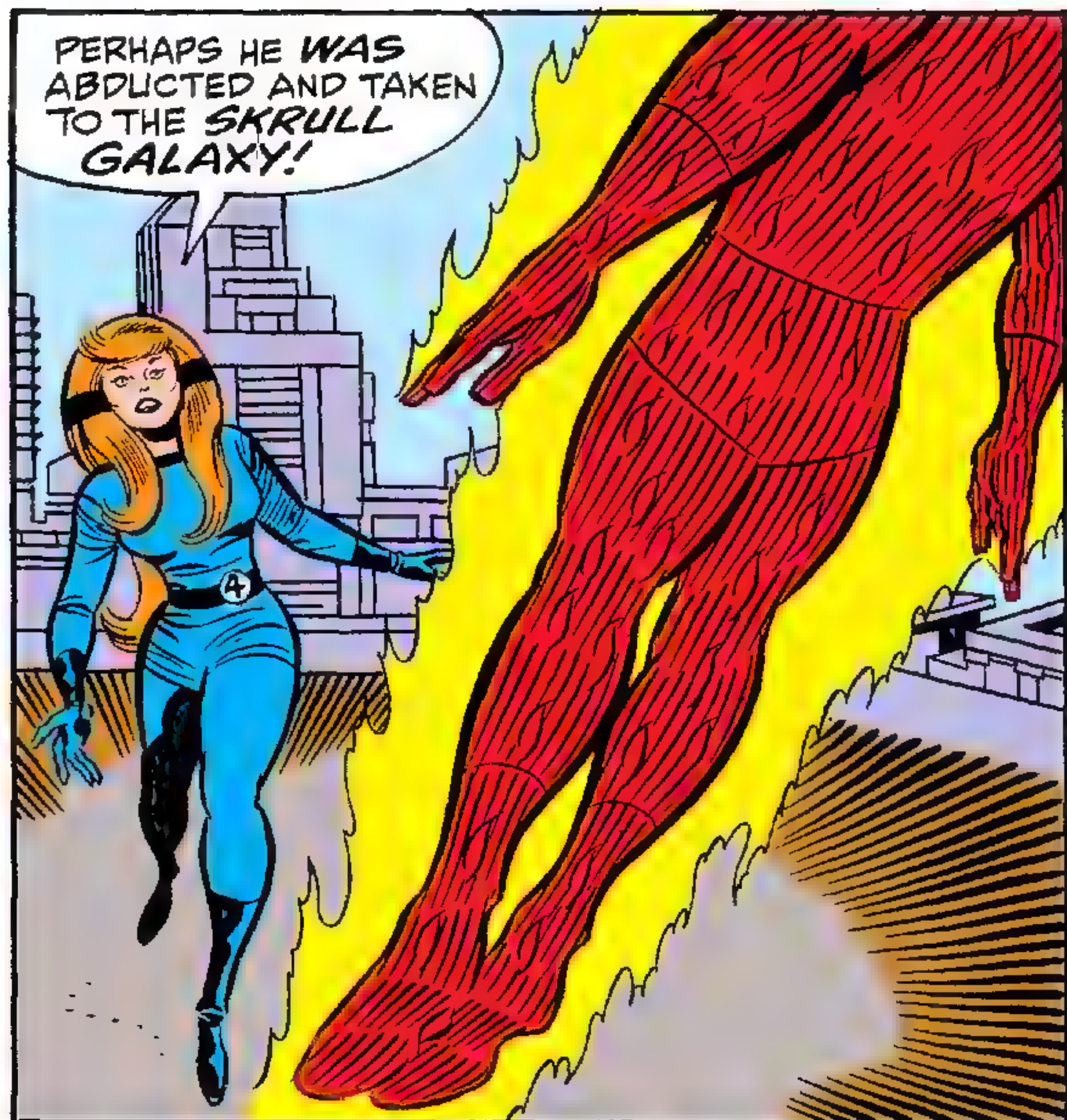
BUT I CAN'T *GIVE UP!* OL'
STRETCHO ALWAYS SAID...
THERE'S GOTTA BE A WAY..!

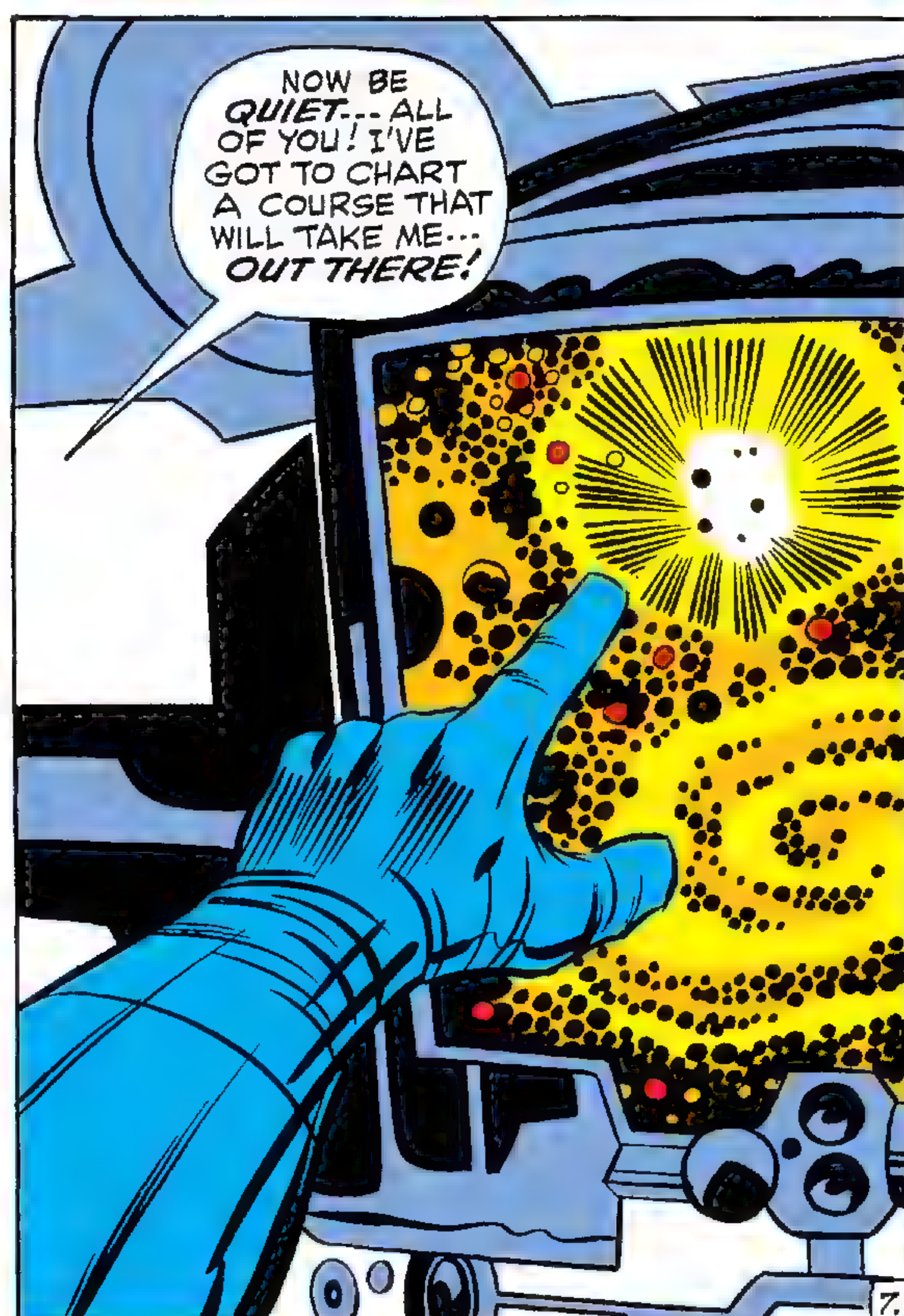
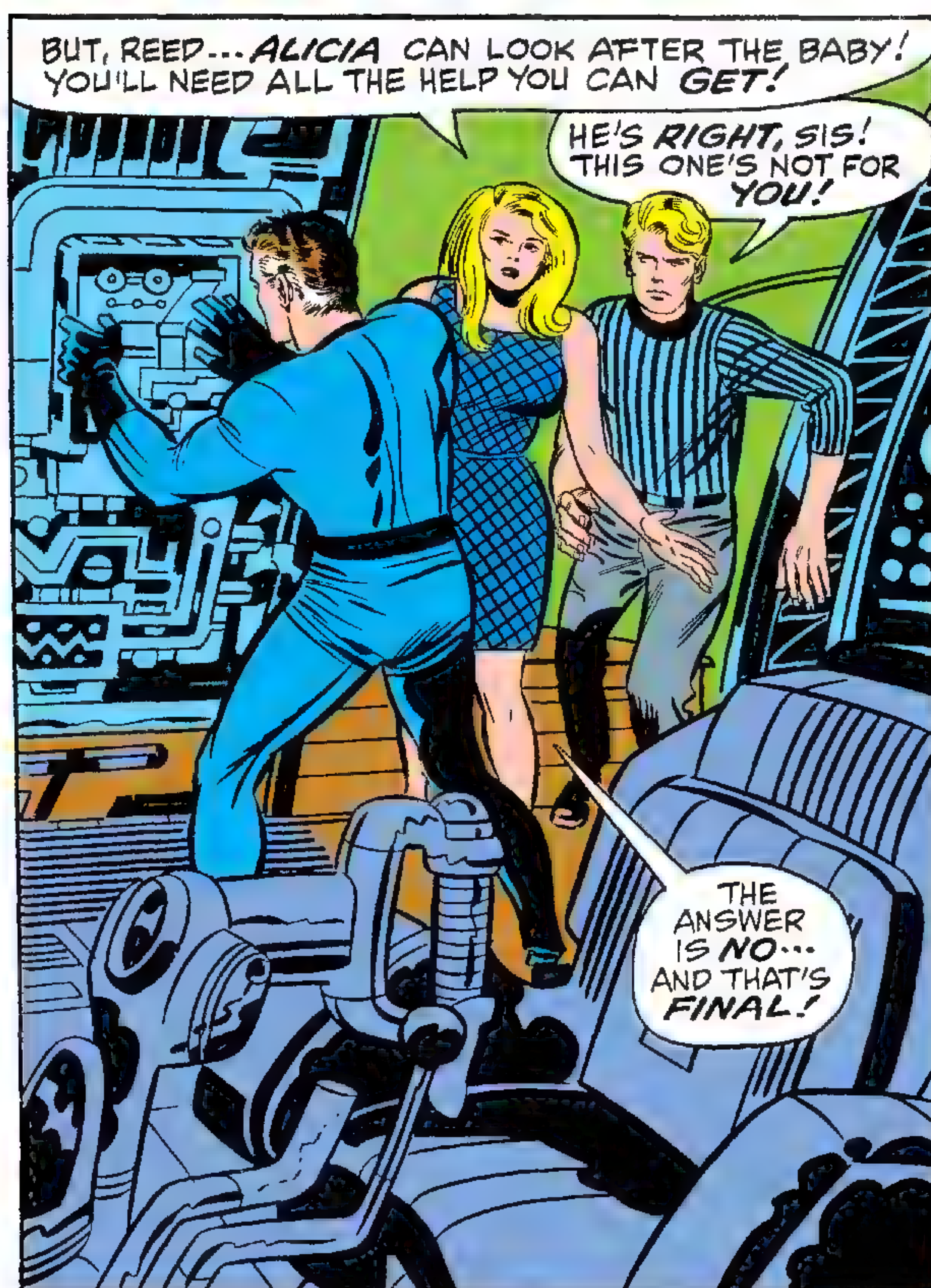
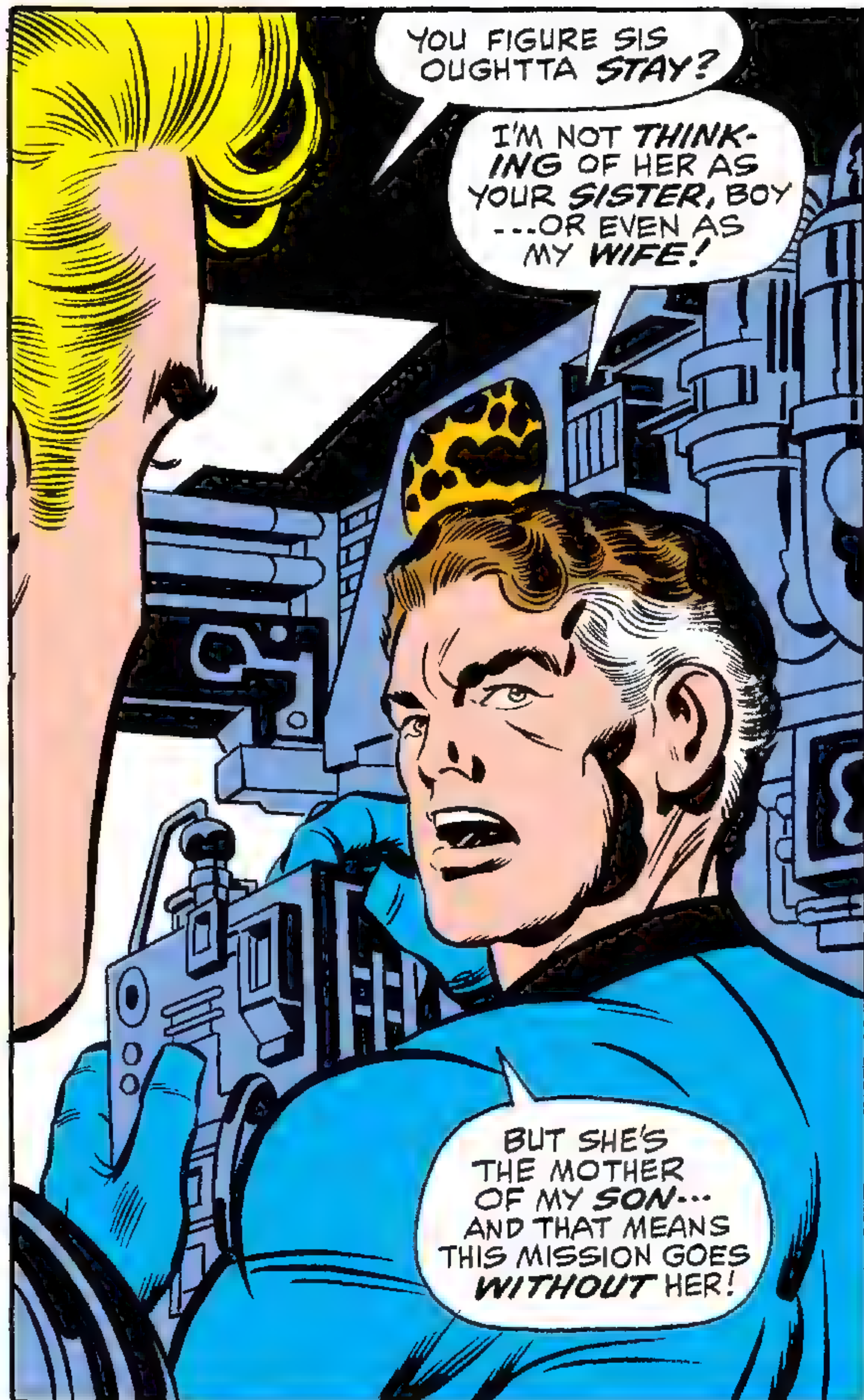


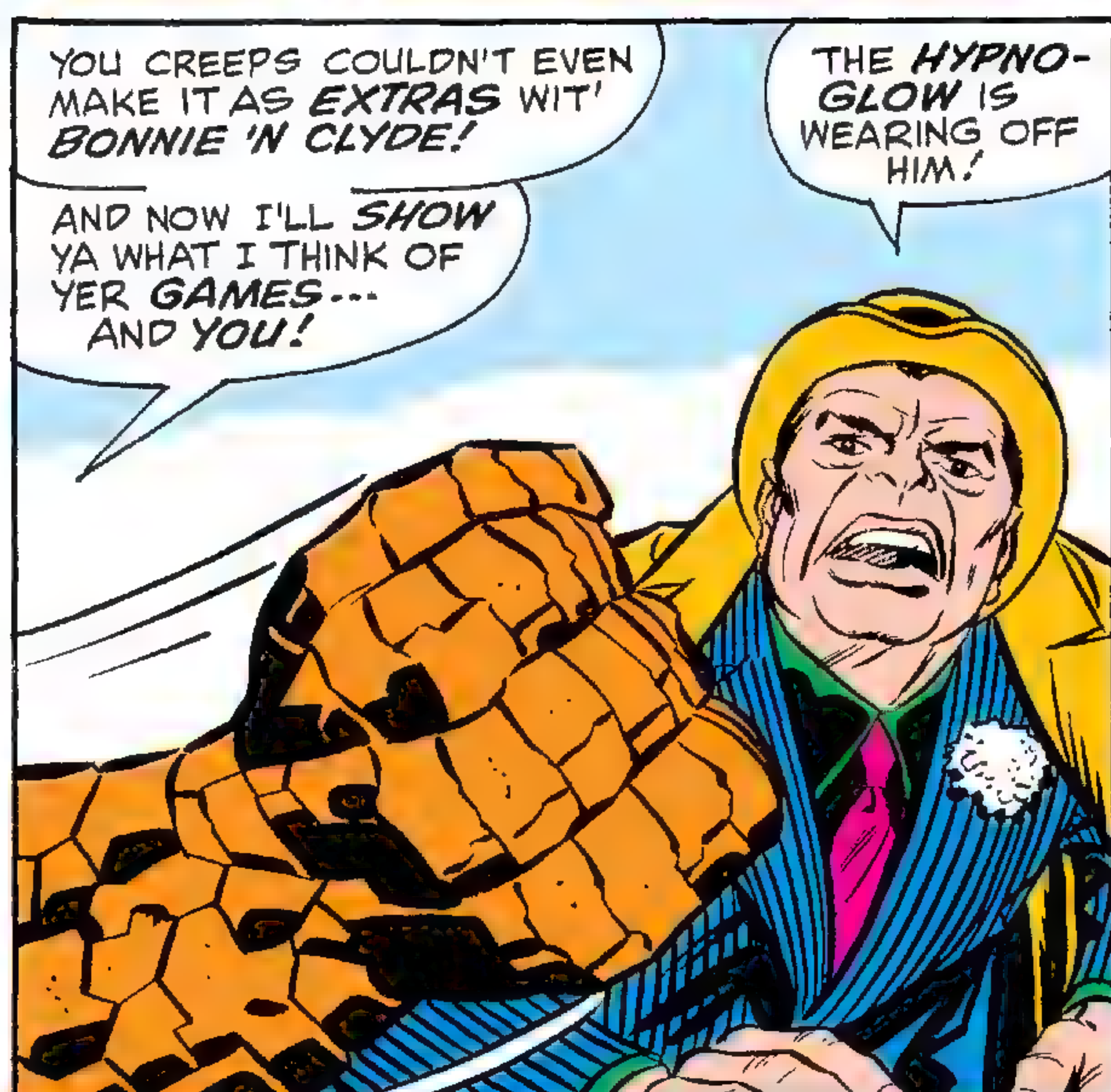
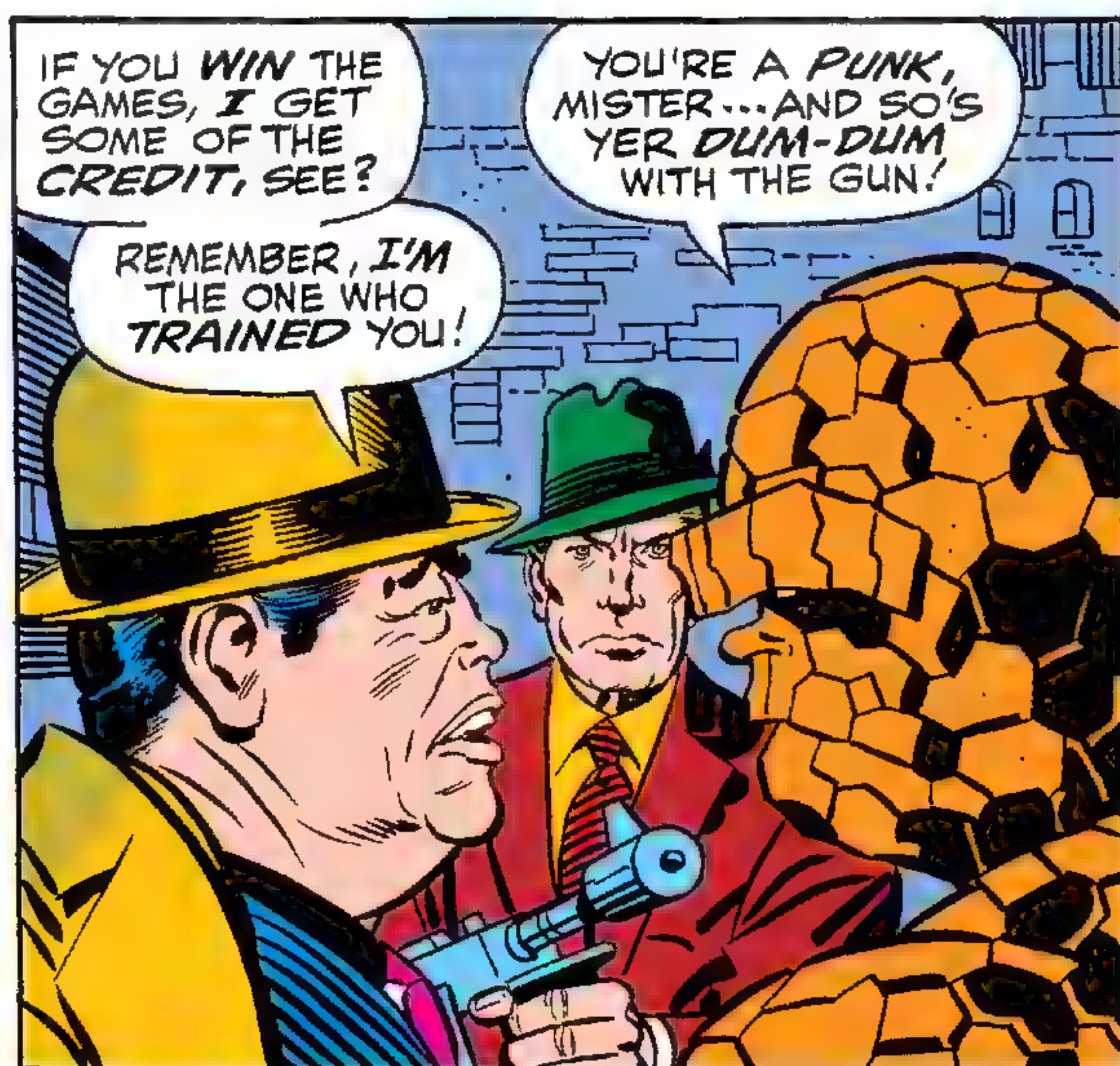
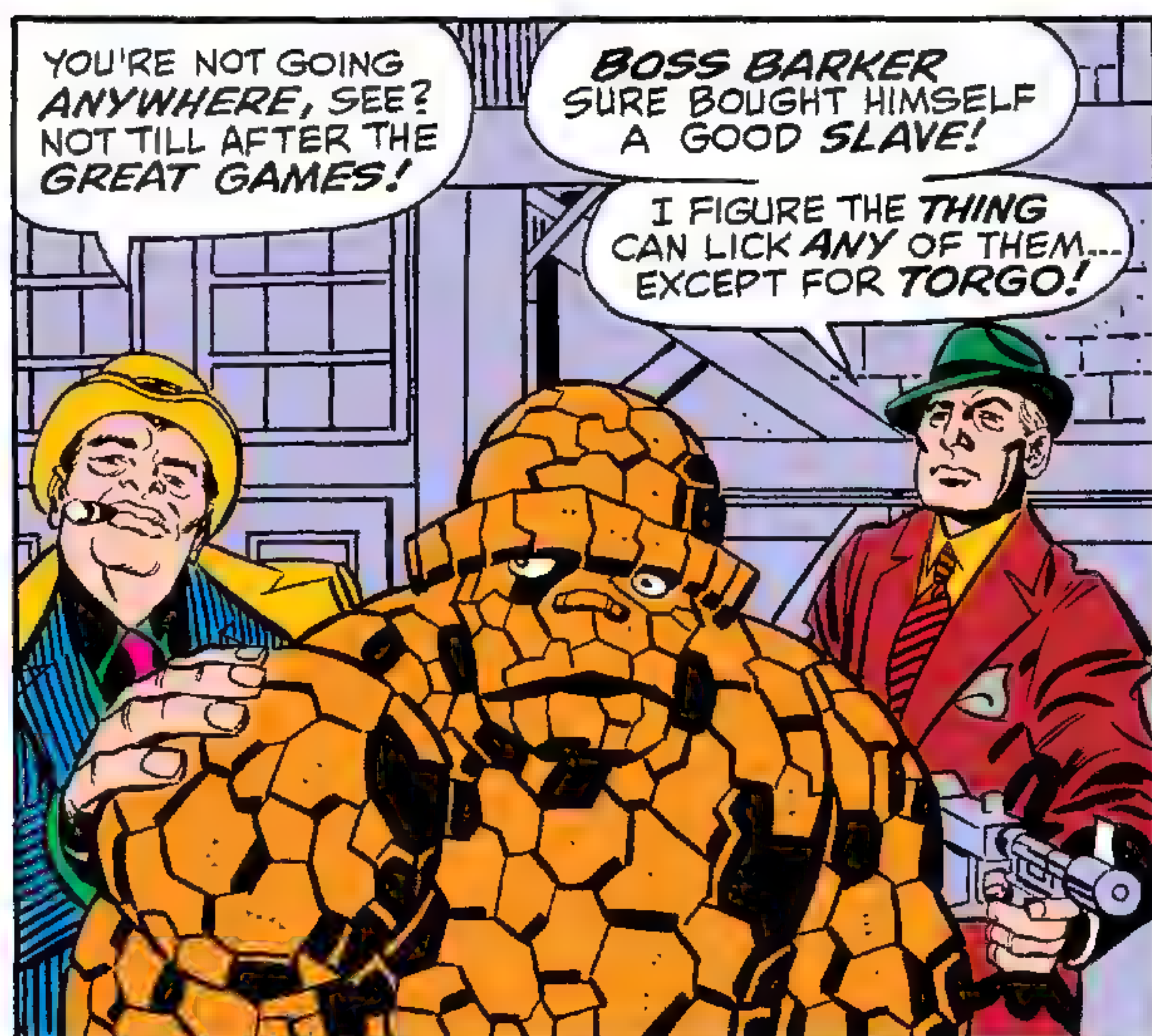
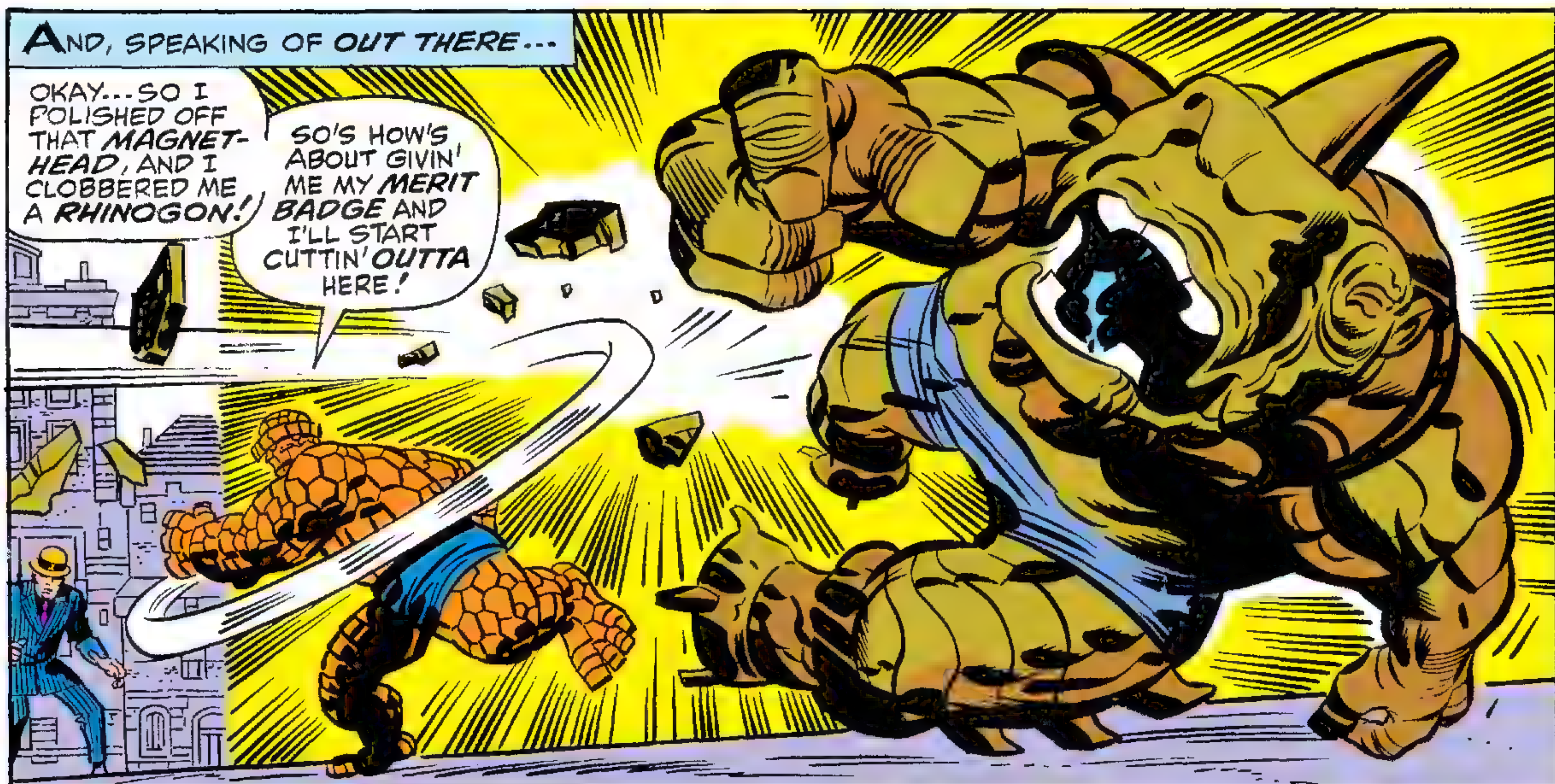
IF I MOVE *FAST*
ENUFF... DIG MY
FINGERS IN THE
GROUND... 'N
RIP IT UP...

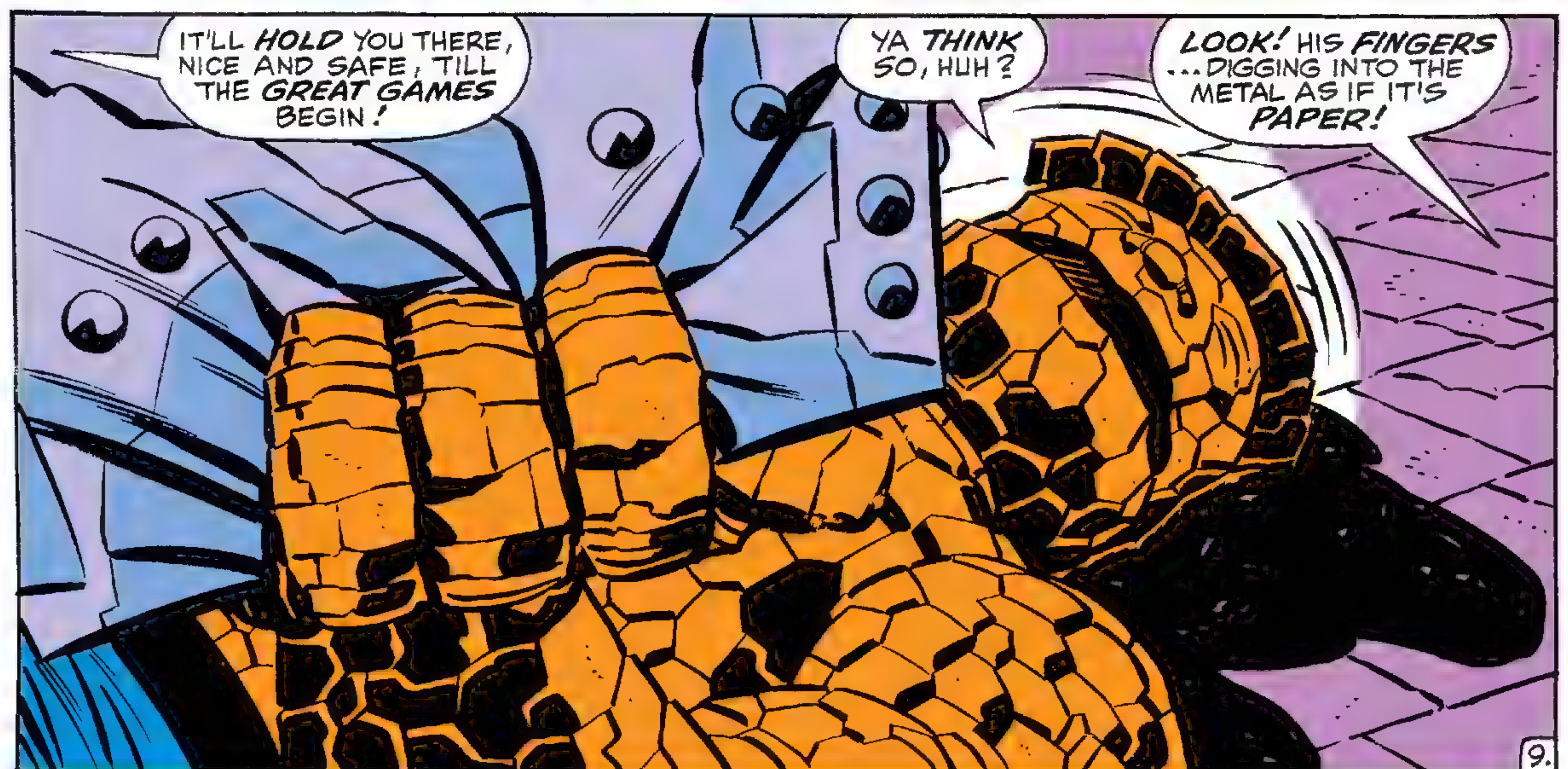
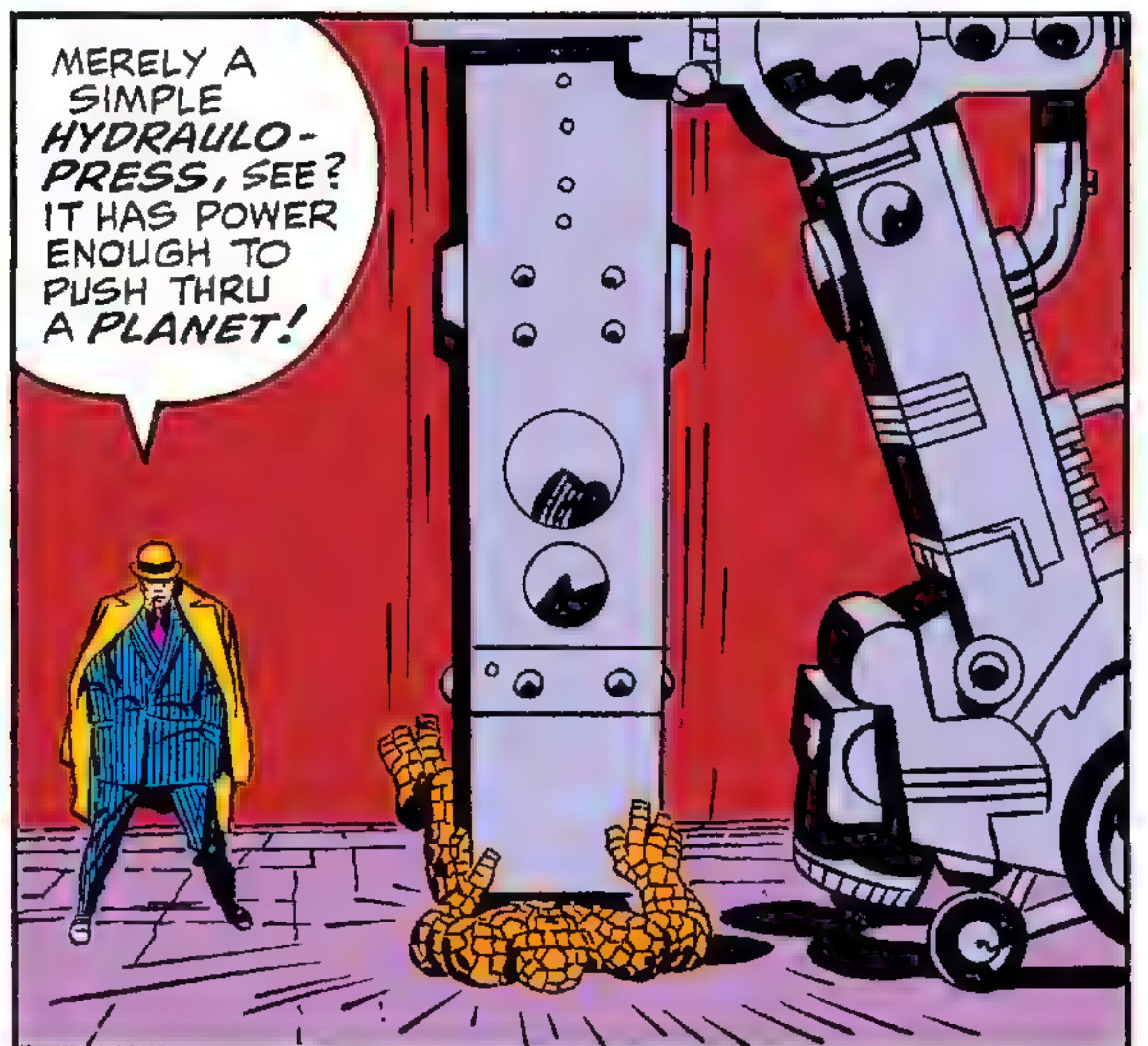
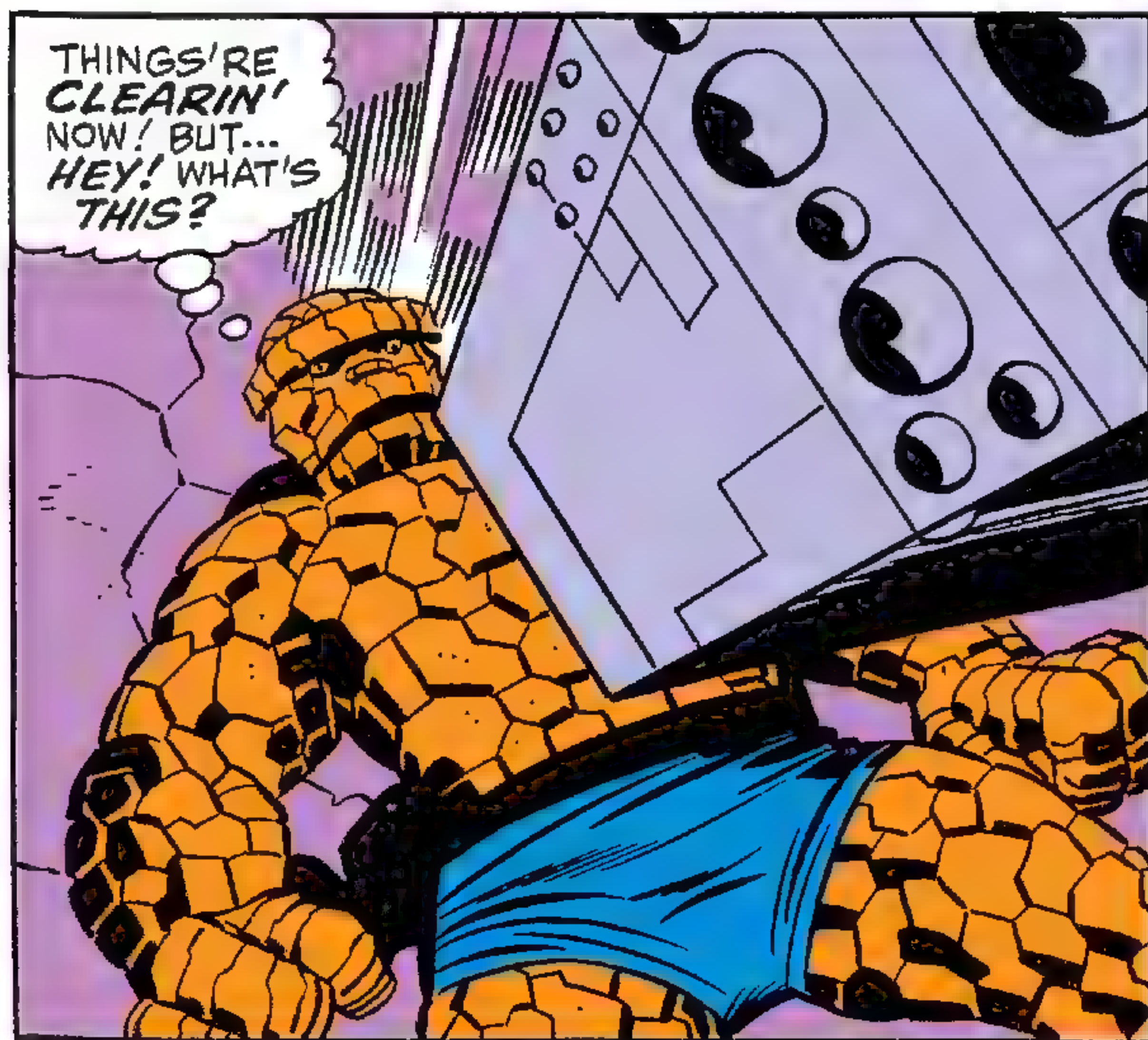
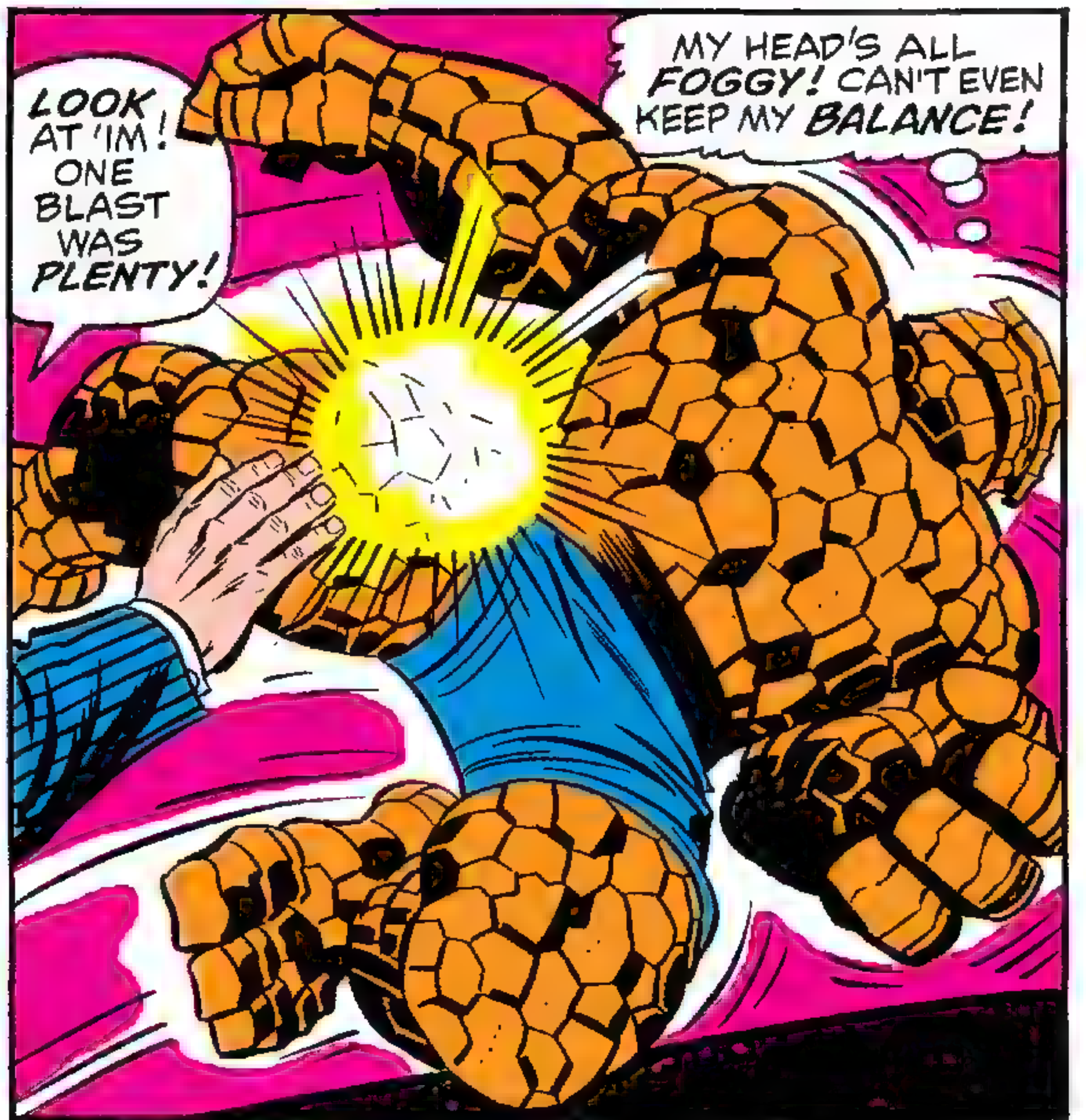
I *DID IT!!* I KNOCKED
'IM OFFA HIS *FEET!*

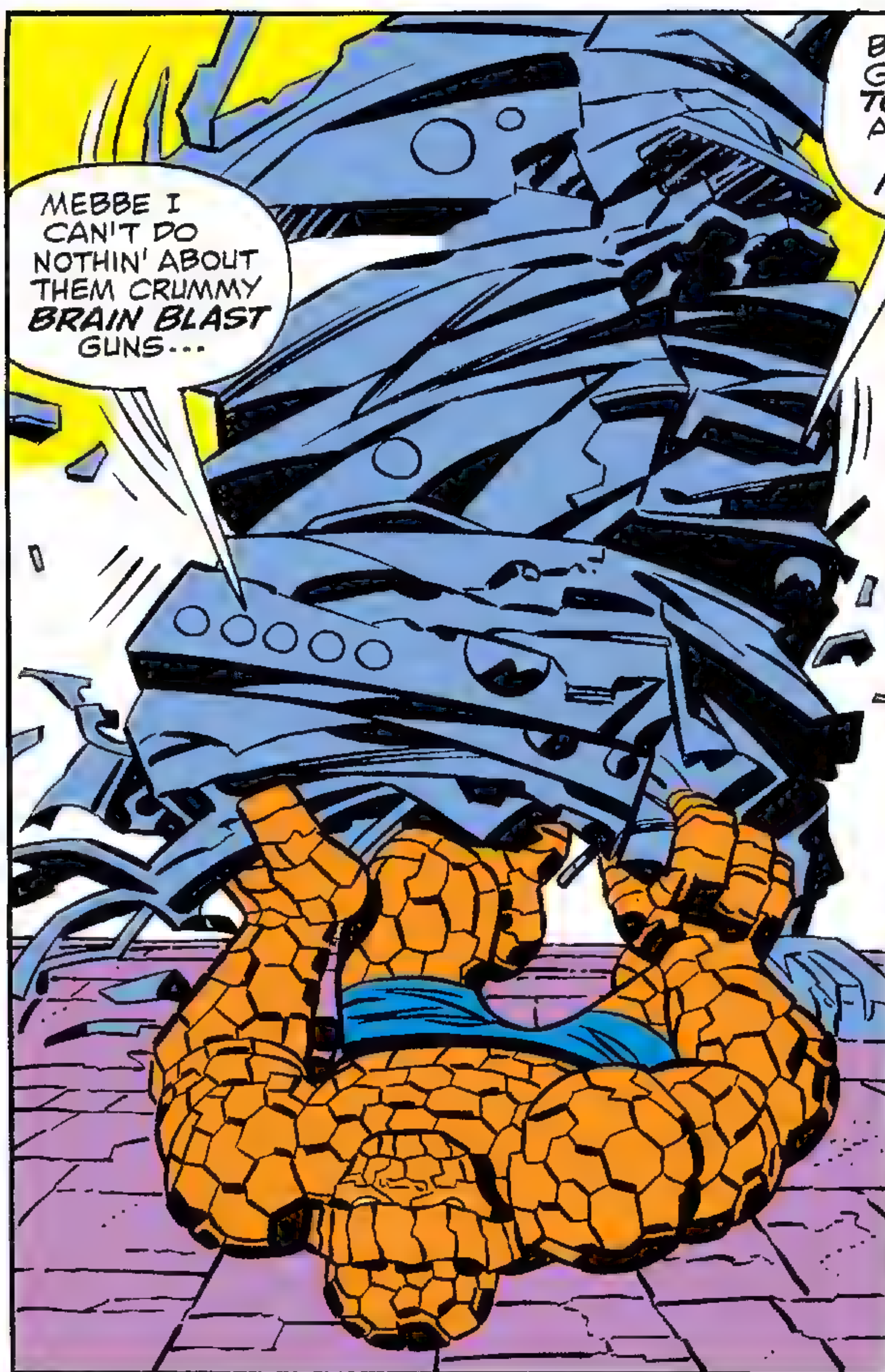
NOW I CAN
TEAR INTO 'IM
BEFORE HE GITS
HIS *BALANCE*
AGAIN!



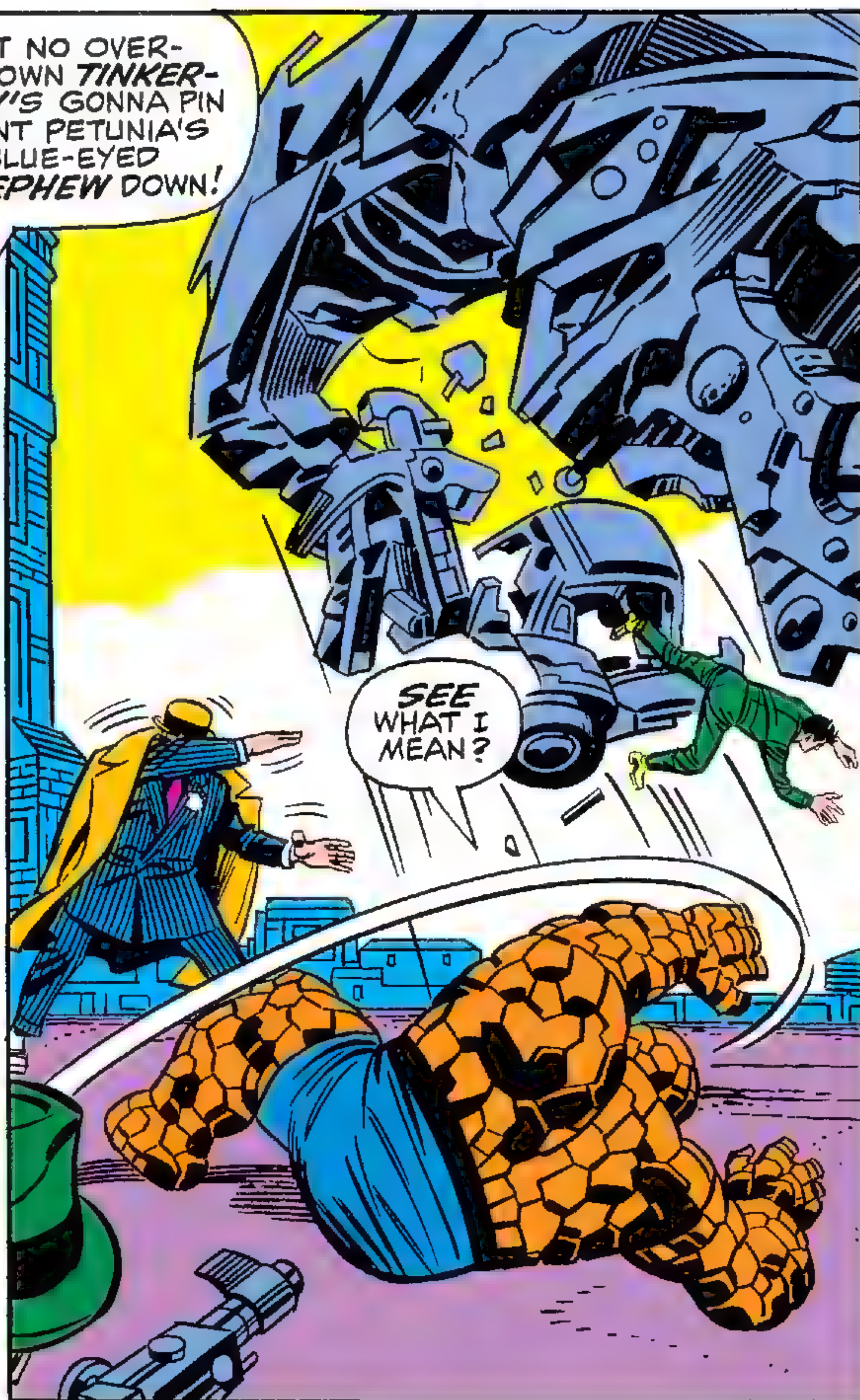


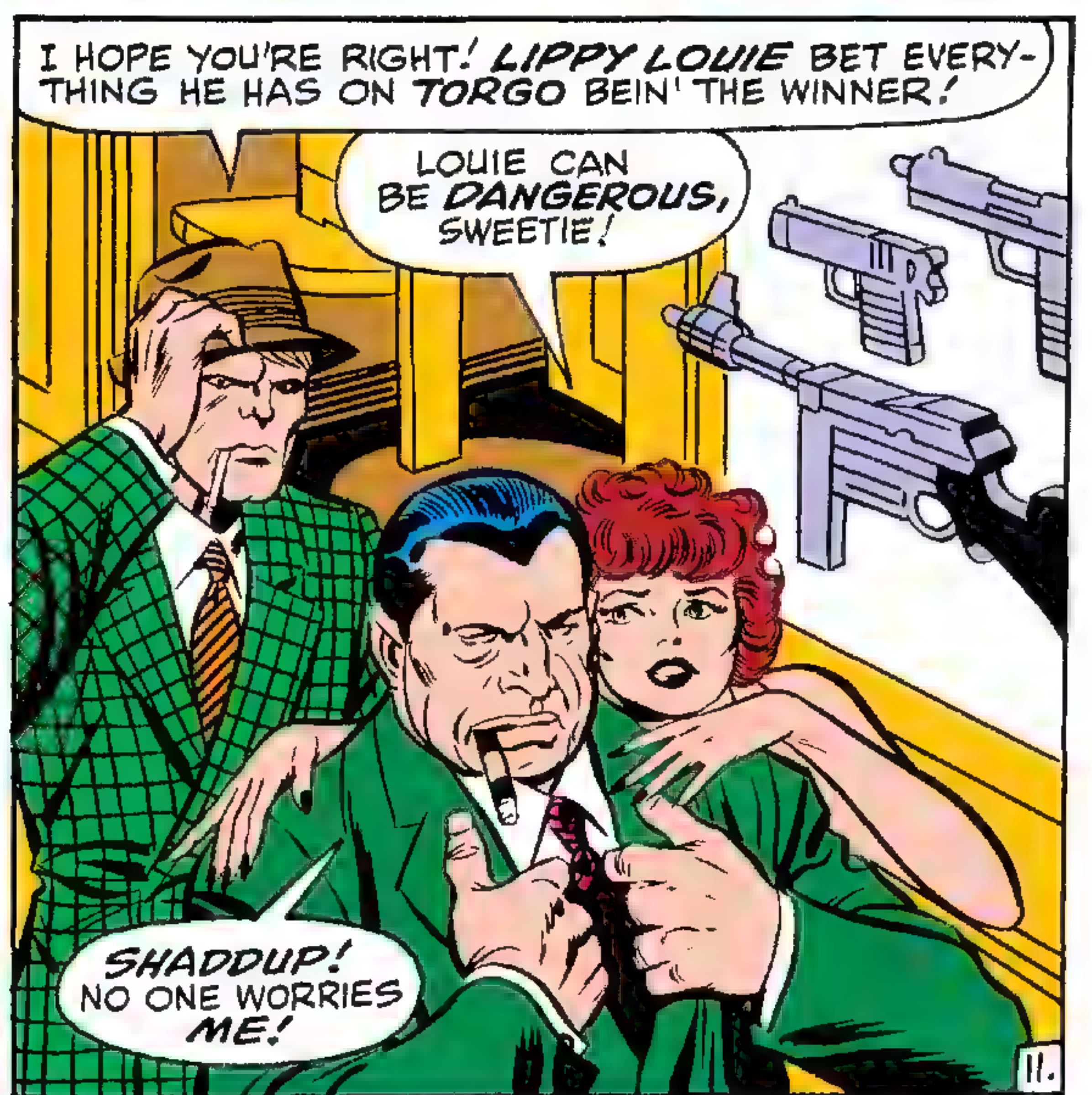
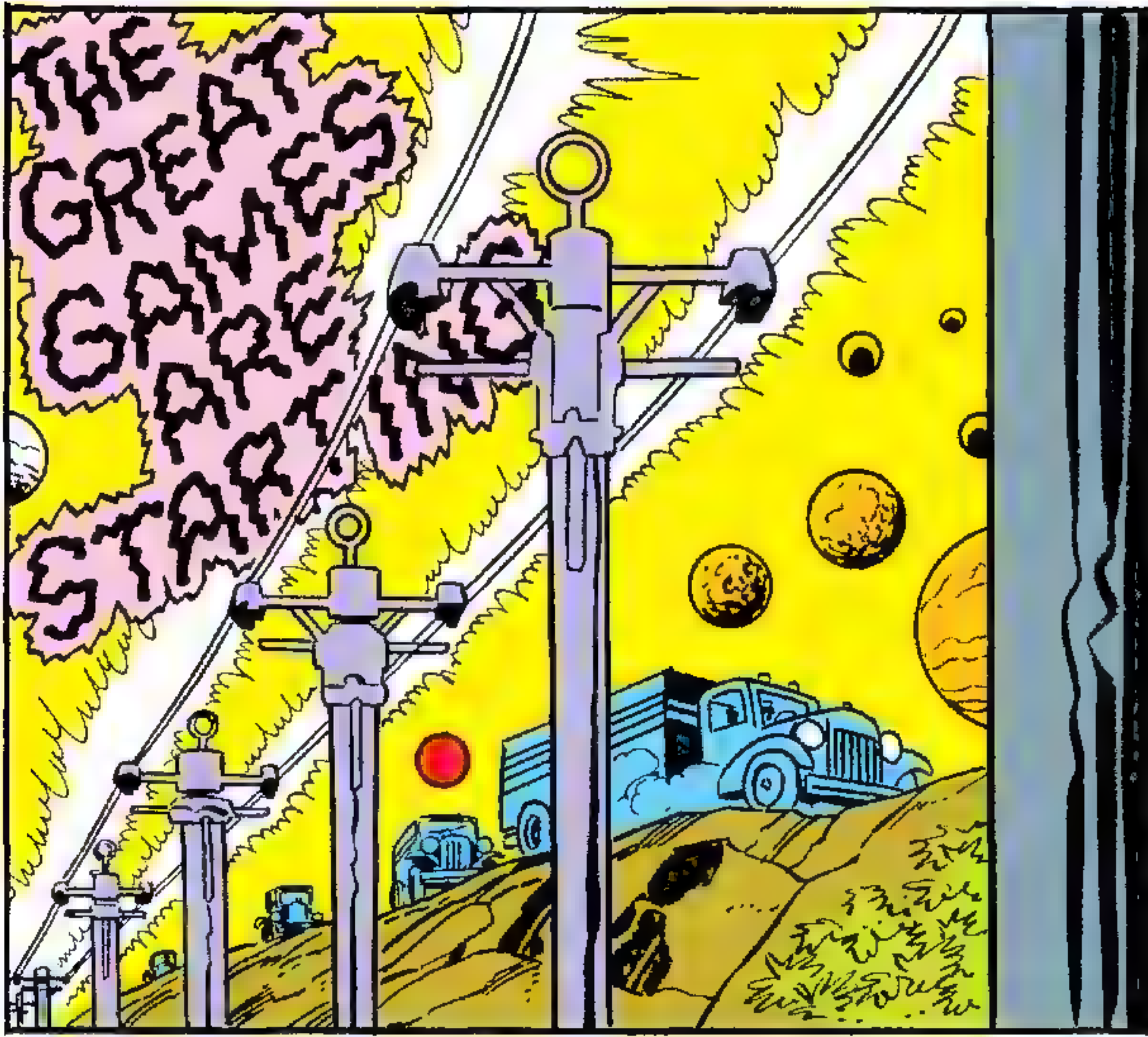


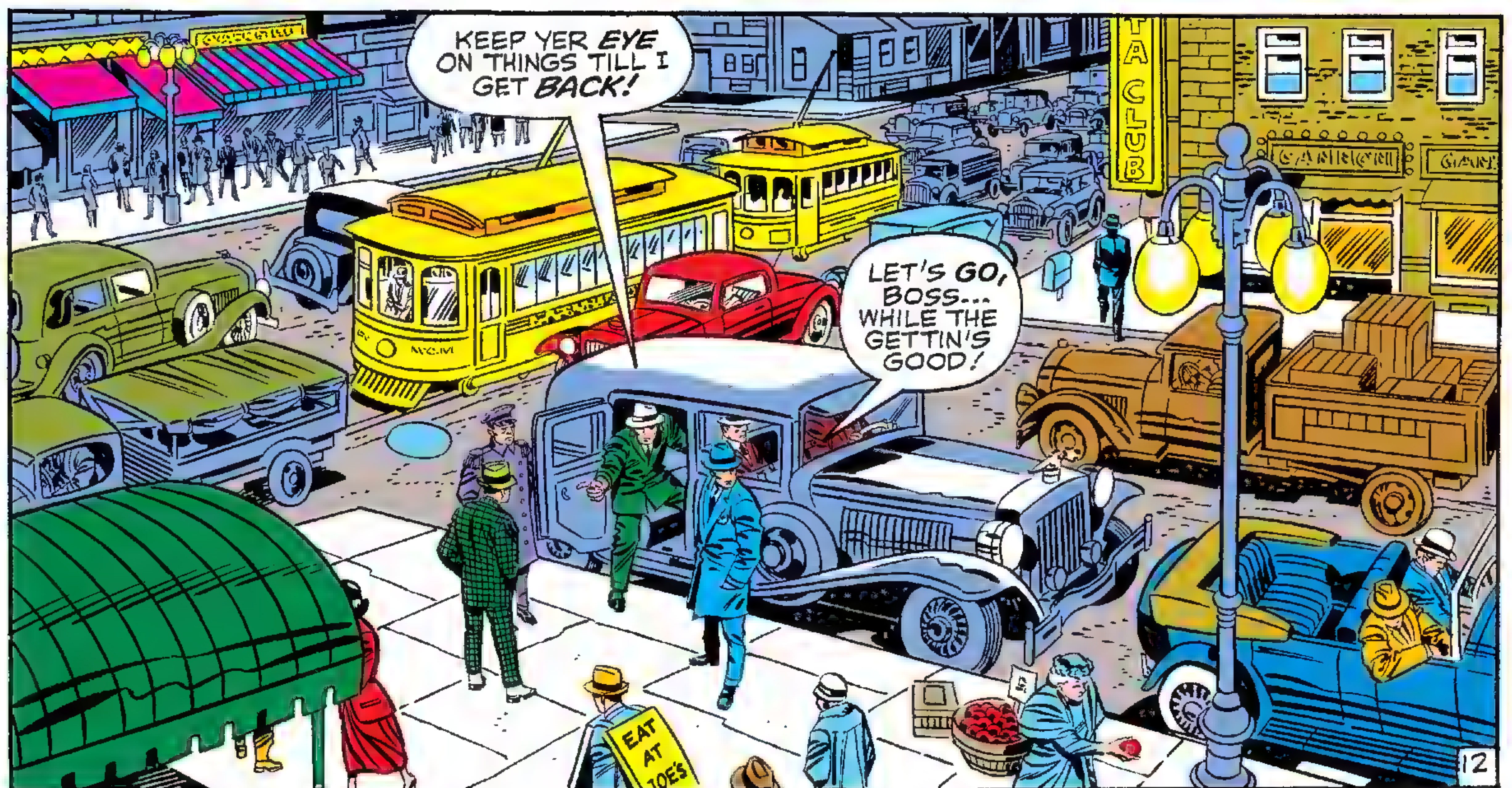
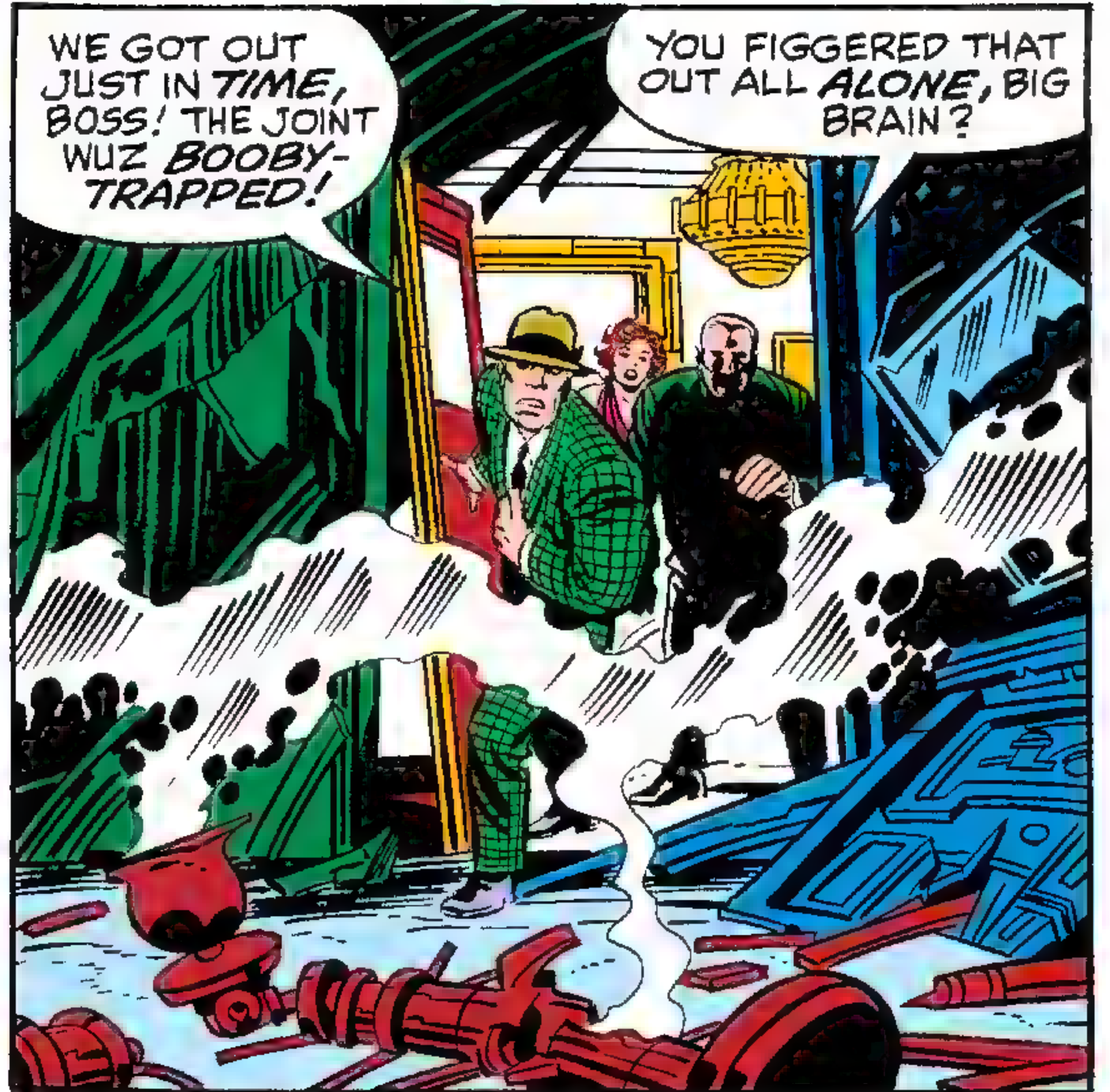
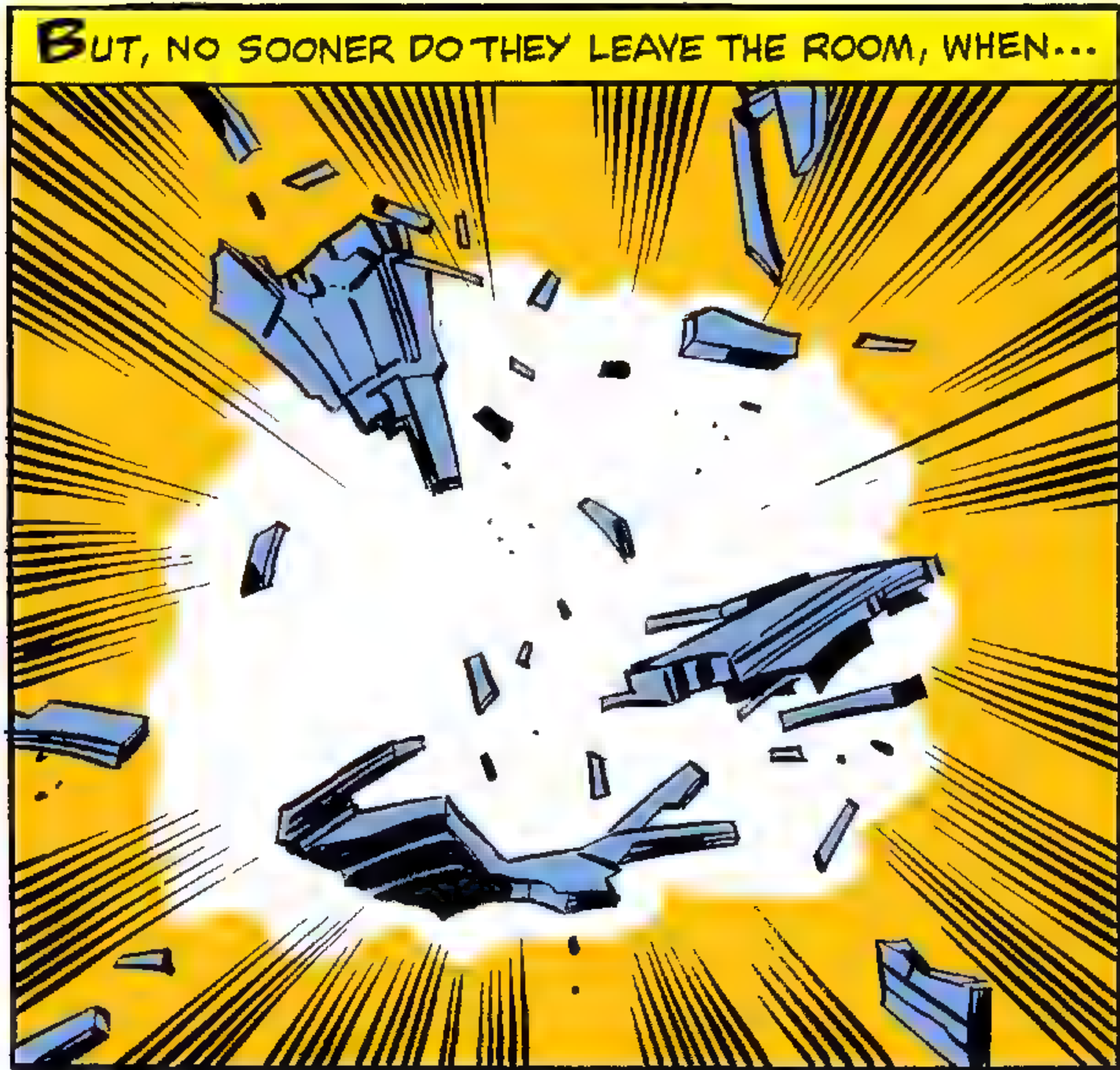


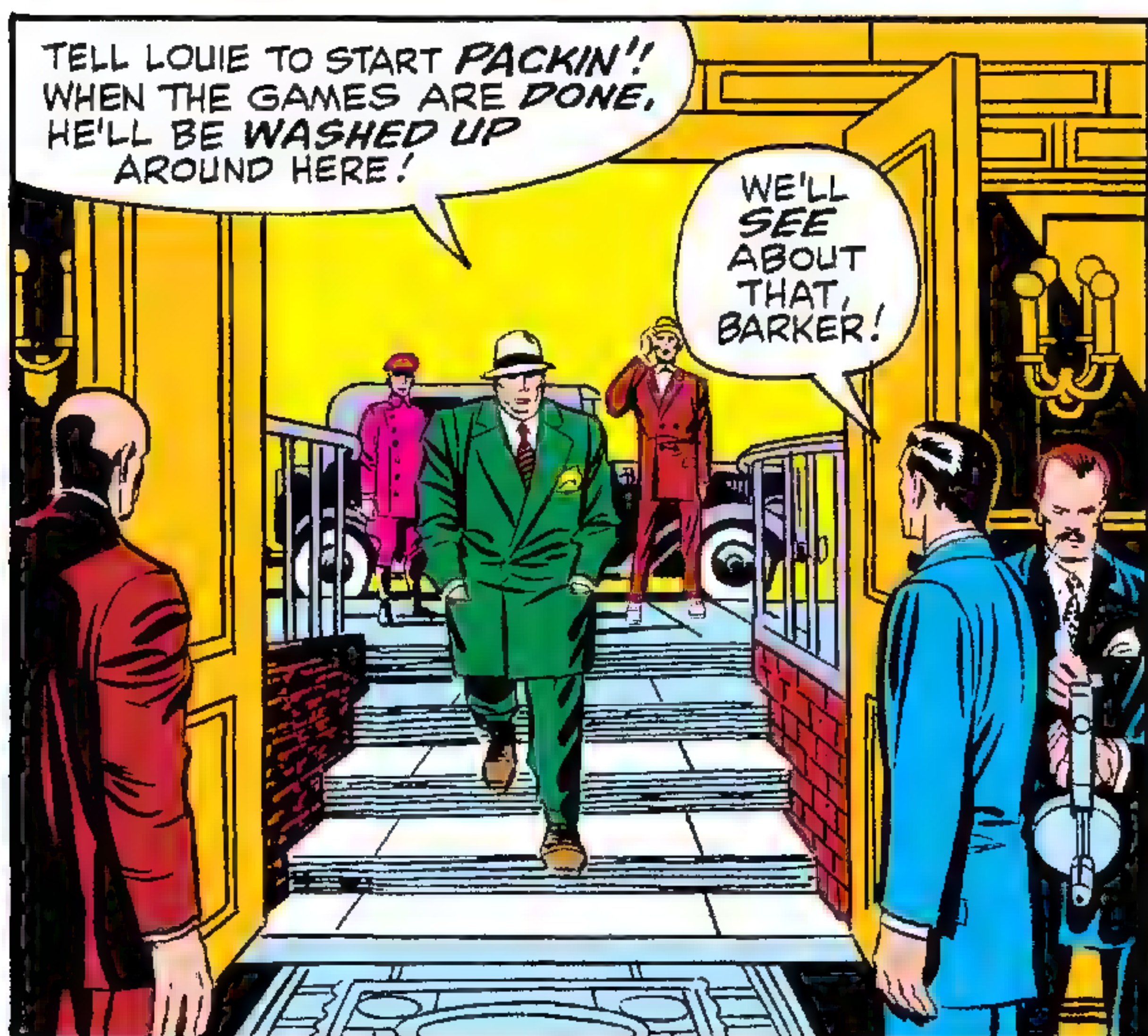
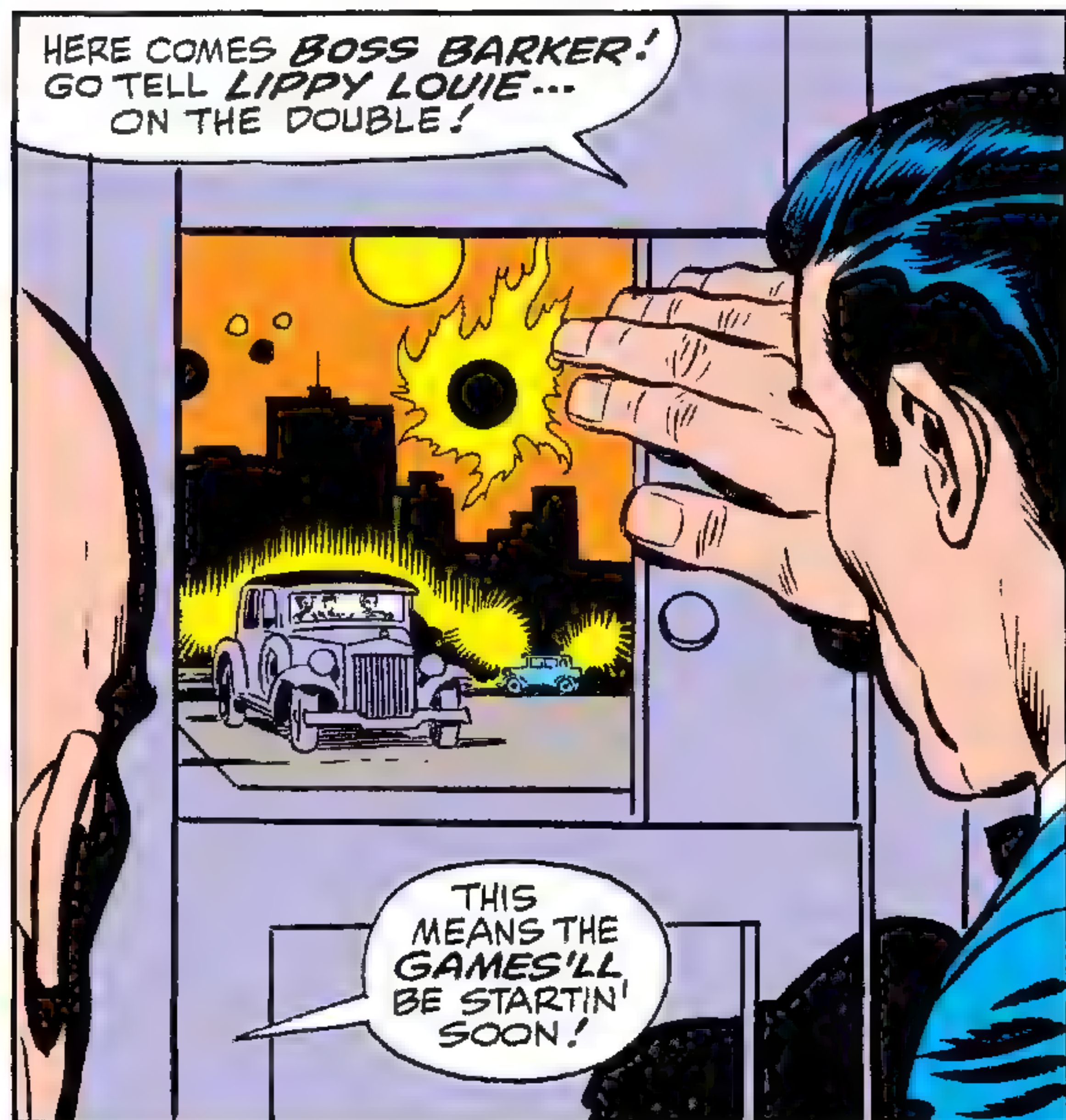


BUT NO OVER-GROWN *TINKER-TOY'S* GONNA PIN AUNT PETUNIA'S BLUE-EYED NEPHEW DOWN!









MINUTES LATER, IN AN AMAZINGLY ACCURATE REPLICA OF A GAUDY, ORNATE *MOVIE PALACE* OF THE 1930'S, THE TOP *TERRITORIAL LEADERS* OF THE AREA GATHER TO WITNESS THE *SPECTACLE* ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE IN THE ARENA *BELOW* THEM...

HERE COMES **BOSS BARKER** AND **LIPPY LOUIE**!

THAT MEANS WE CAN GET **STARTED** NOW!

NOW THAT **THEY'RE** HERE, THE JOINT'LL FILL UP IN **MINUTES!**

HEY, YOU GUYS! ALL THE SMART MONEY'S RUNNIN' ABOUT **EVEN** BETWEEN THE **THING** AND **TORGO!**

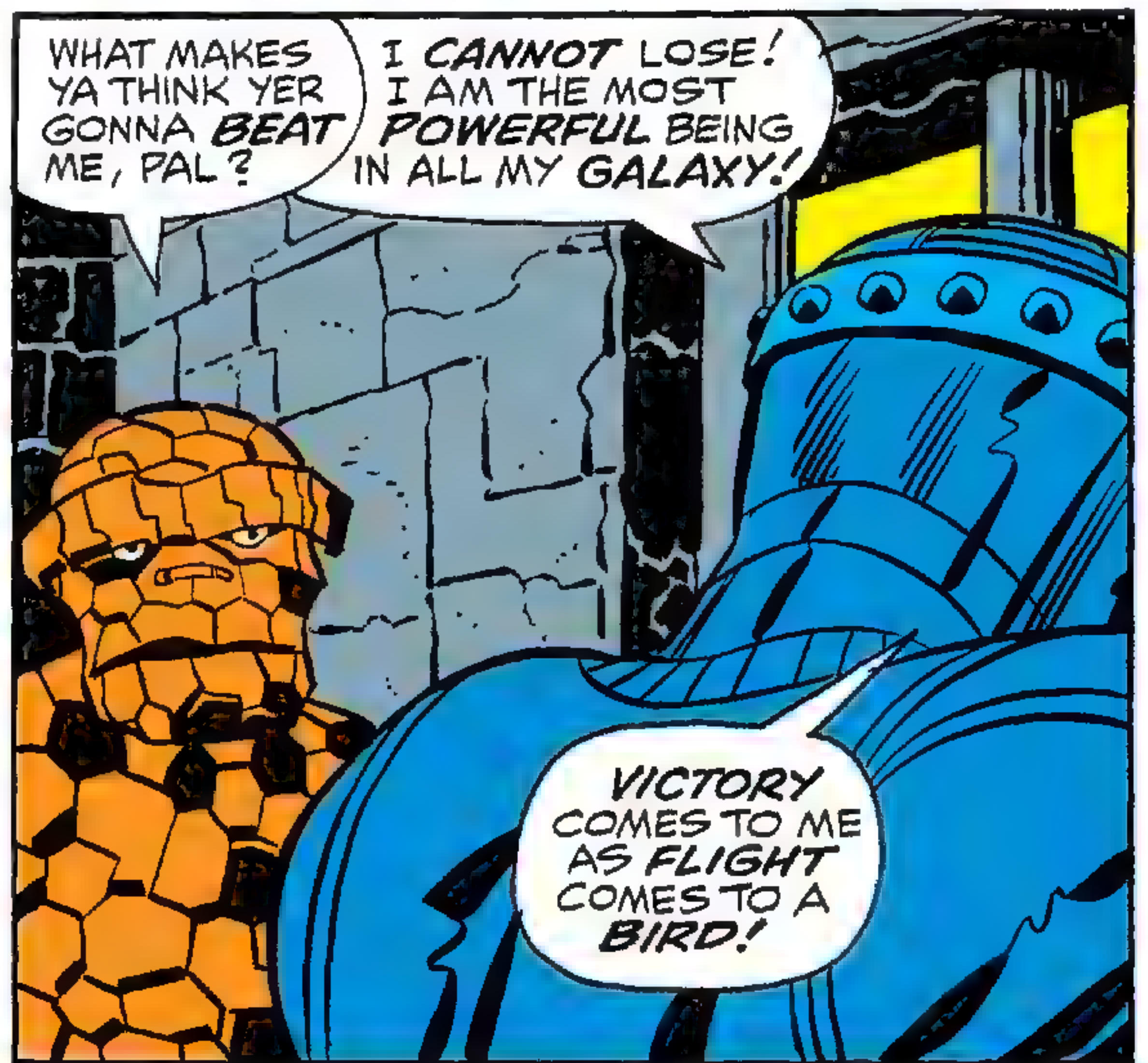
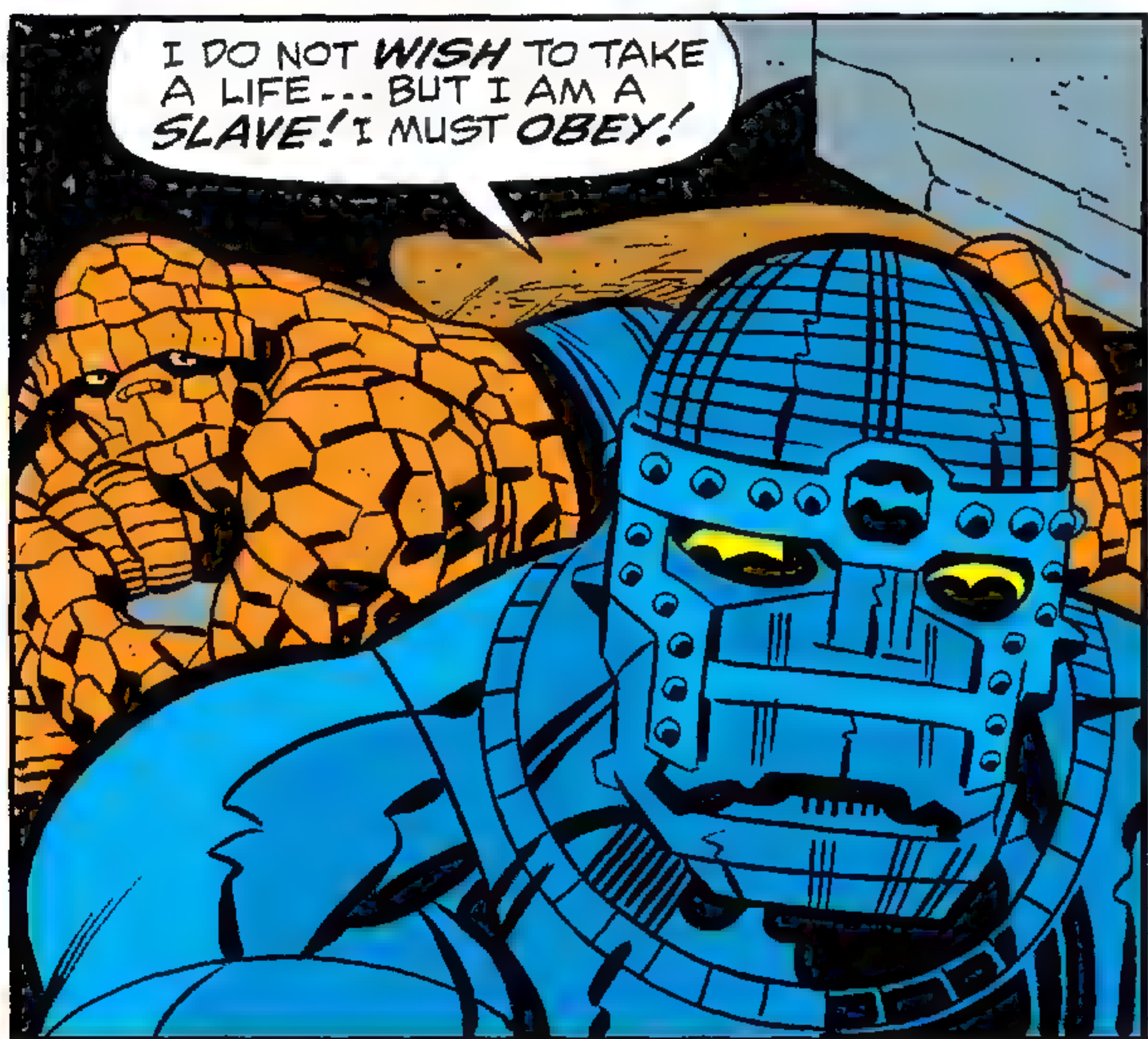
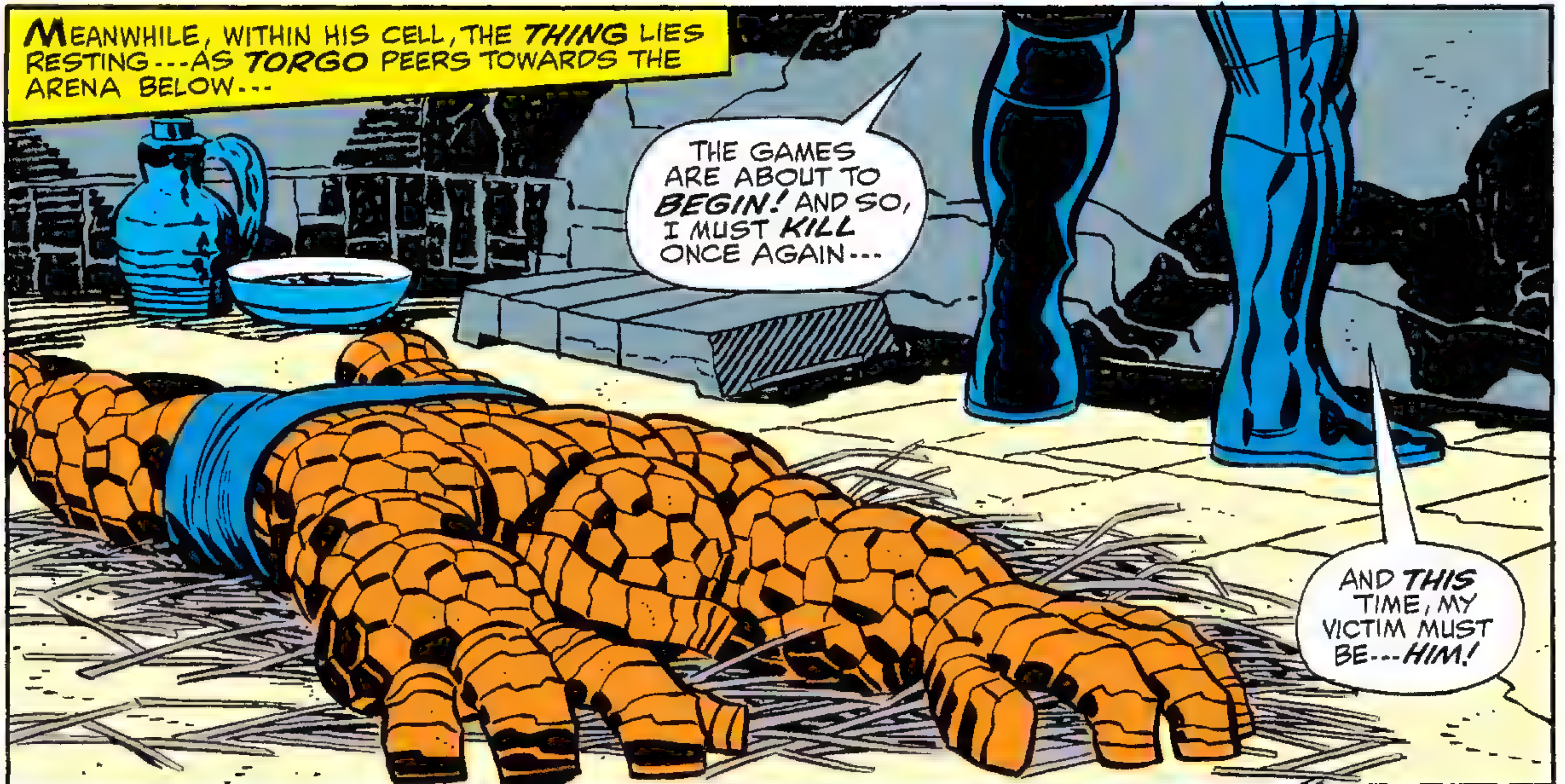
THIS ONE CAN BE **ANYBODY'S** FIGHT!

I DON'T **LIKE** IT! BOTH THEIR SLAVES ARE TOO **POWERFUL!** IF ONE OF 'EM SHOULD GET **AWAY...**!

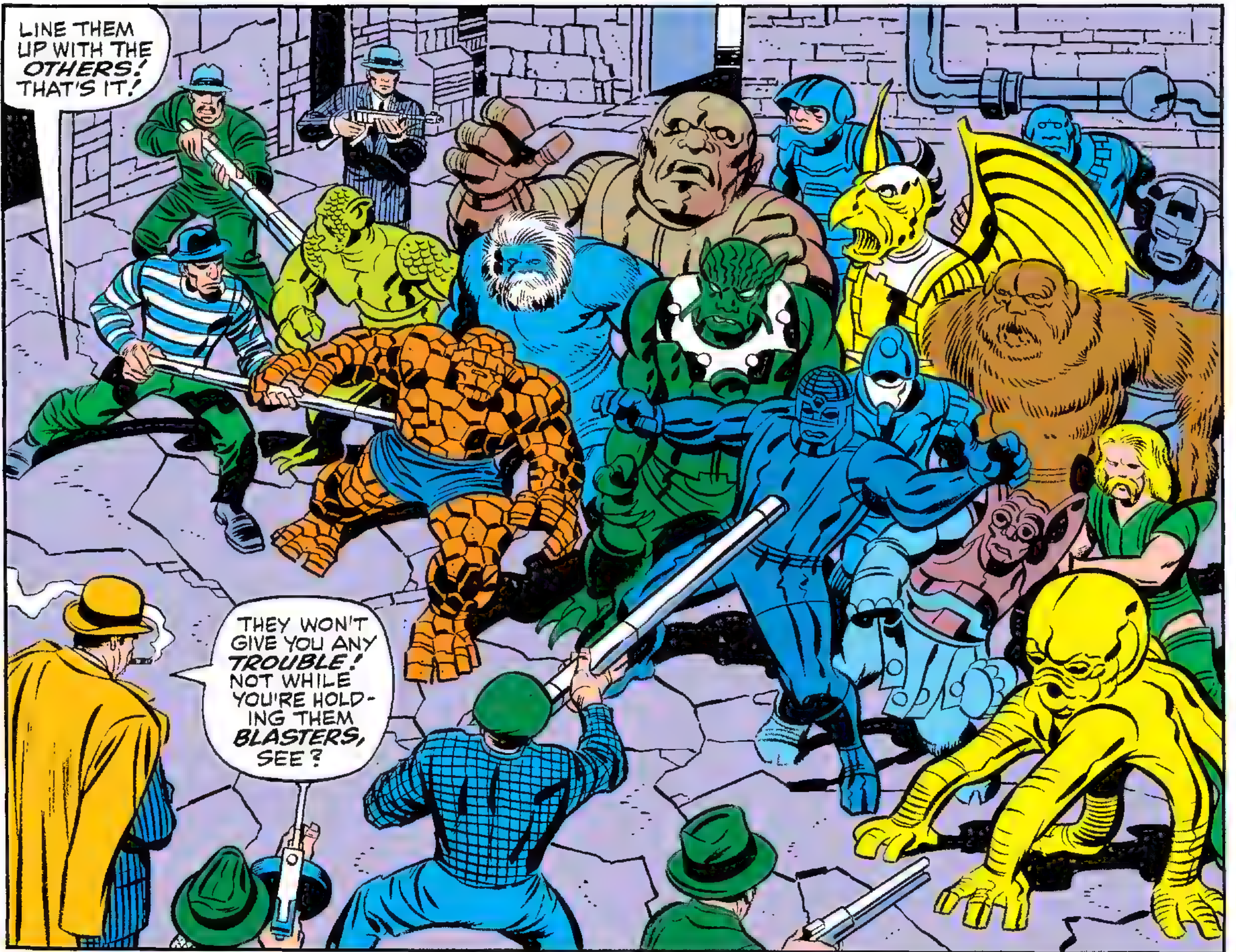
IMPOSSIBLE! A SLAVE CAN NEVER GET AWAY!

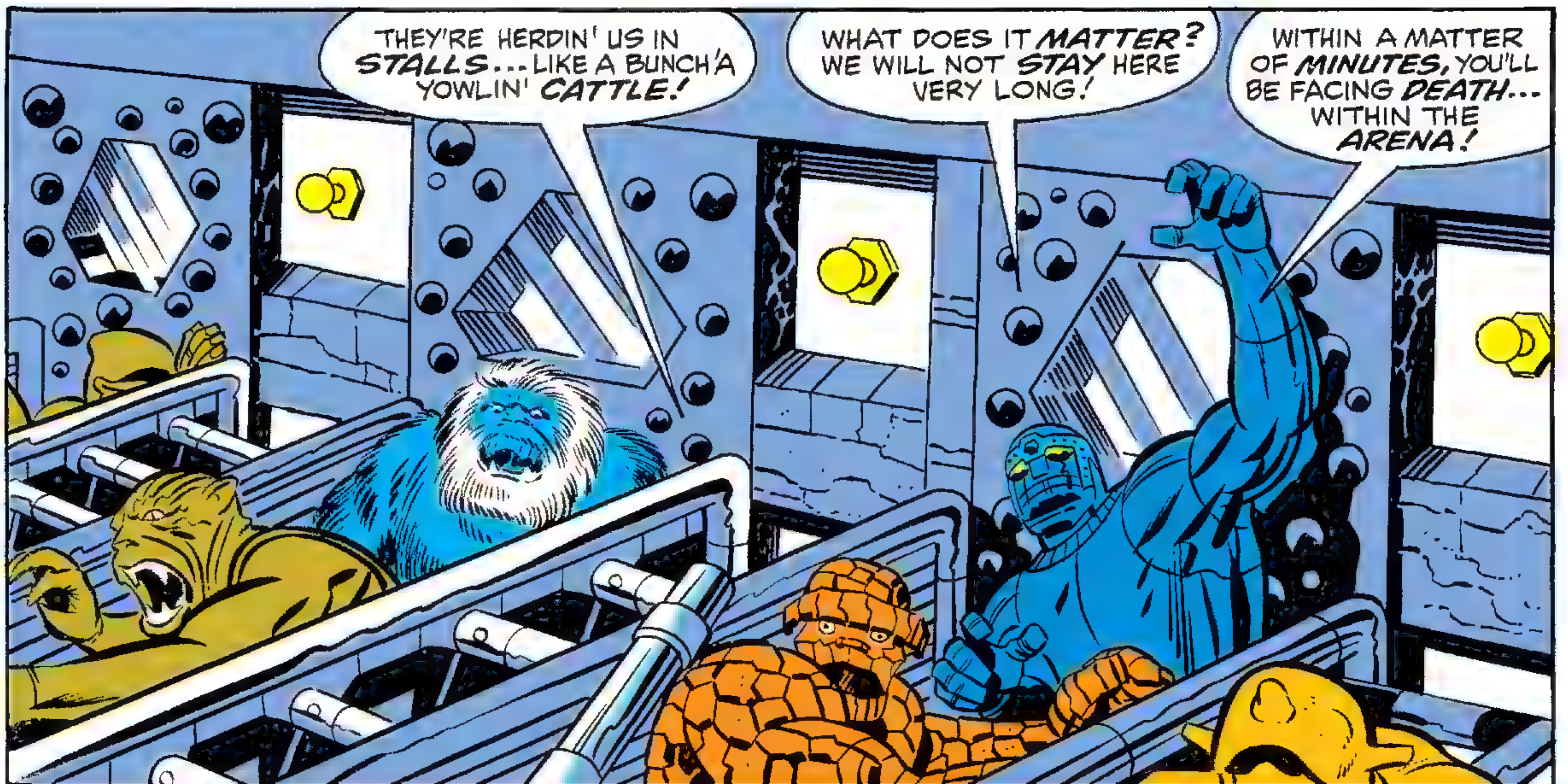
THEY CAN ONLY **FIGHT...** AND WHEN THEY'RE **DONE...** THEY **DIE!**

MEANWHILE, WITHIN HIS CELL, THE *THING* LIES RESTING...AS *TORG* PEERS TOWARDS THE ARENA BELOW...









THEY'RE HERDIN' US IN **STALLS**... LIKE A BUNCH'A YOWLIN' **CATTLE**!

WHAT DOES IT **MATTER**? WE WILL NOT **STAY** HERE VERY LONG!

WITHIN A MATTER OF **MINUTES**, YOU'LL BE FACING **DEATH**... WITHIN THE **ARENA**!



IN A PIG'S **EYE** I WILL!

ONCE THEY TURN ME **LOOSE**, THEY BETTER RUN FER THE **HILLS**... 'CAUSE THIS IS **ONE** SLAVE THAT'S GONNA **CLOBBER** HIS CRUMMY **MASTERS**!



YOU **DARE NOT** TURN AGAINST THEM! DID YOU NOT LISTEN TO WHAT THE **TRAINER** SAID?

LEGGO! I DUNNO WHAT YER **TALKIN'** ABOUT!

THEN I MUST **TELL** YOU...

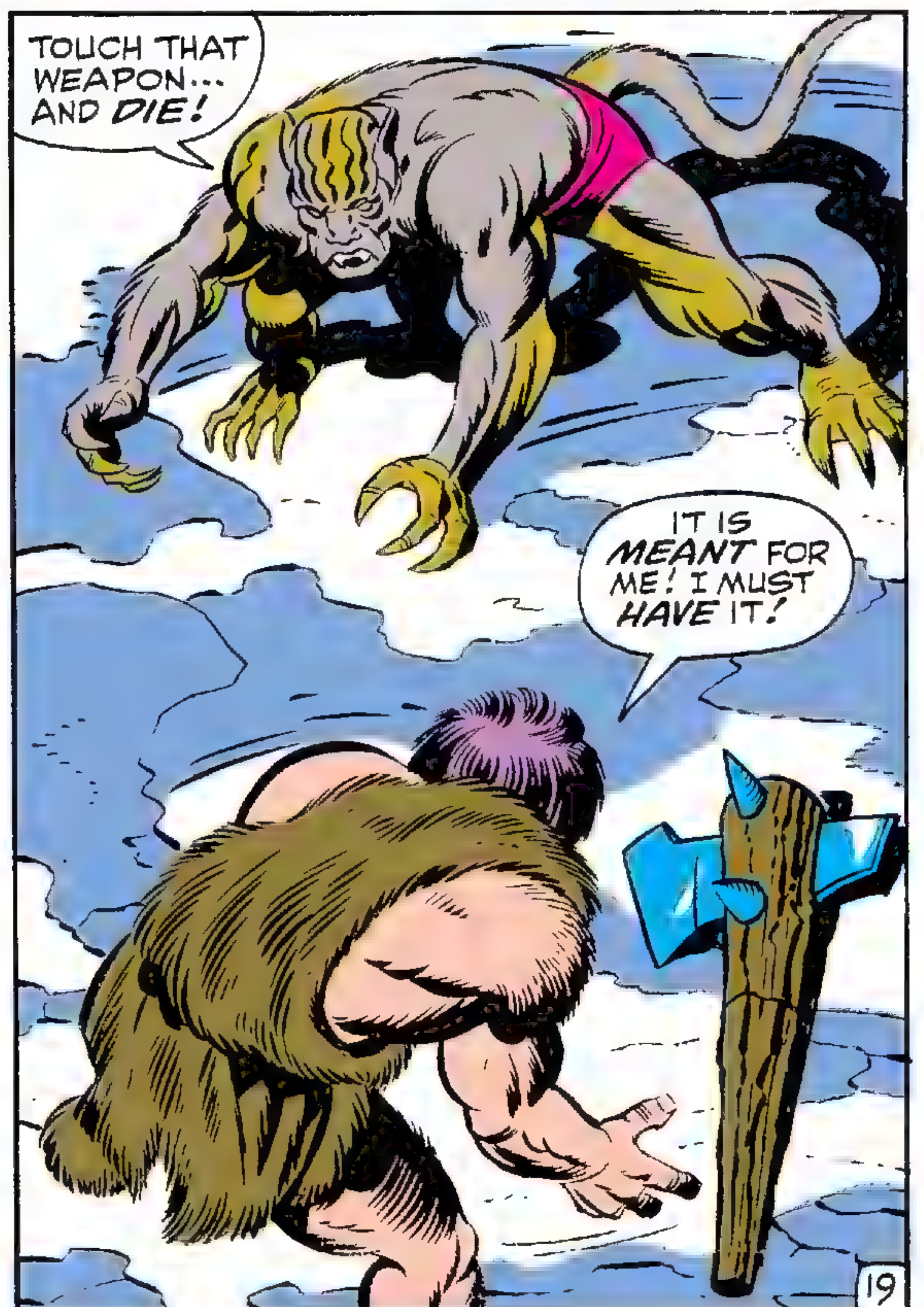
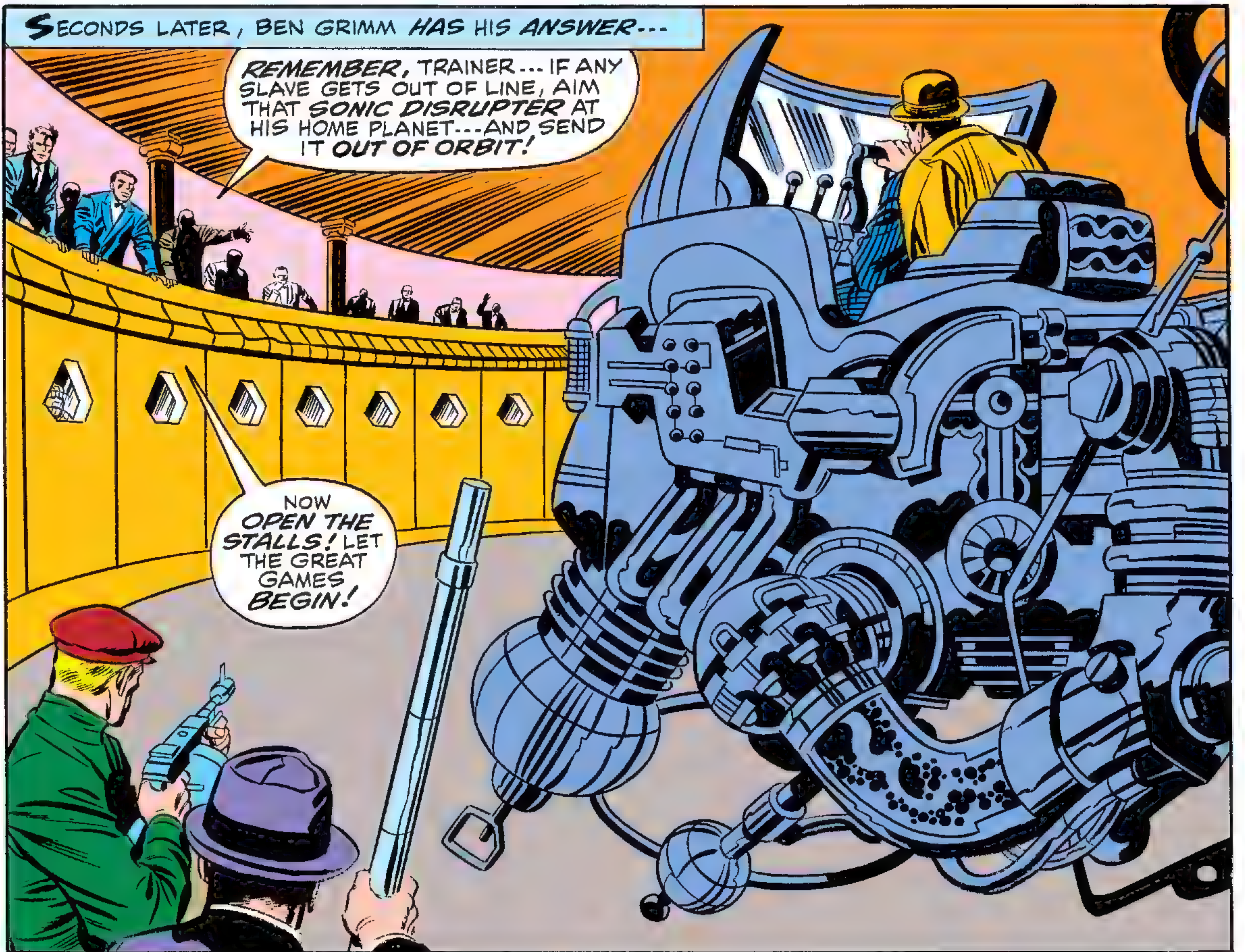


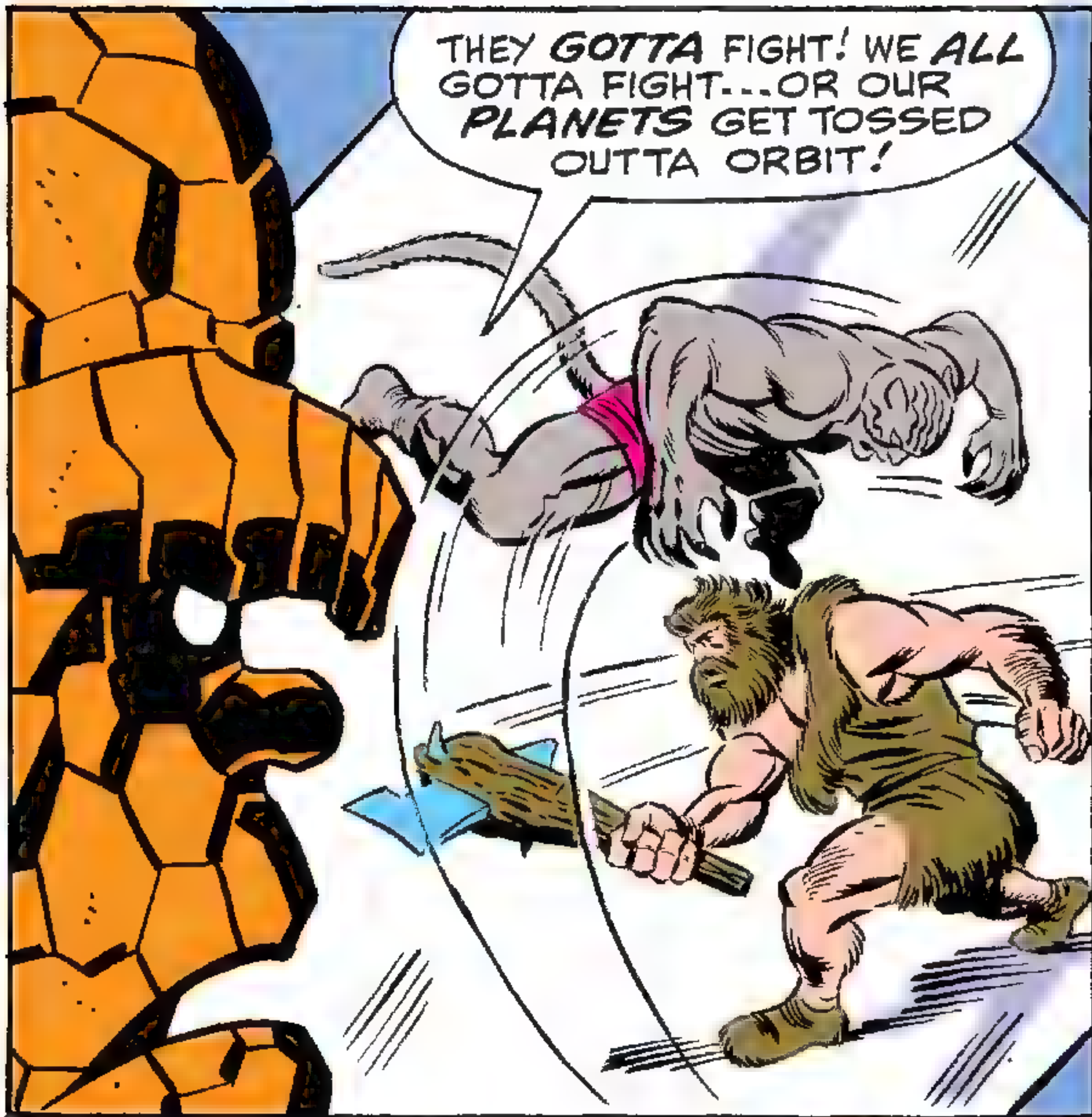
IF ANY SLAVE TURNS **AGAINST** THE **MASTERS** ... IT MEANS **THE DEATH** OF HIS HOME **PLANET**!



LOOK... OUT THERE! THAT IS THE REASON WE MUST **FIGHT**... AND **DIE**... FOR THOSE WHO HAVE **CAPTURED** US!

WHAT IN **BLAZES** IS IT??





THEY **GOTTA** FIGHT! WE **ALL** GOTTA FIGHT...OR OUR **PLANETS** GET TOSSED OUTTA ORBIT!



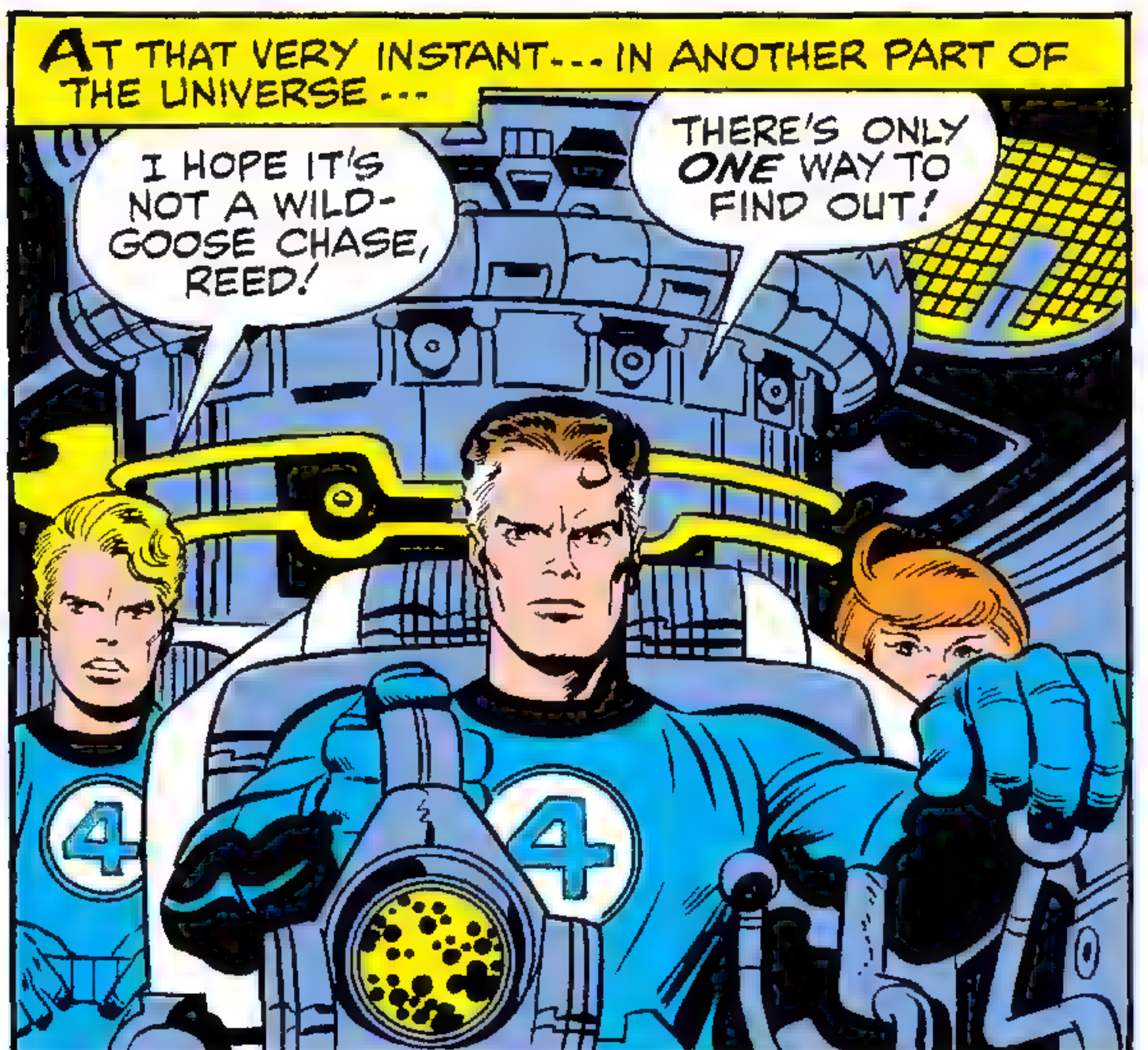
DO NOT FEAR! WHEN OUR MOMENT COMES, I SHALL MAKE YOUR DEATH AS **SWIFT** AS POSSIBLE!

YEAH, YEAH! THANKS A **MILLION!** YER ALL **HEART,** TORG!



THERE'S NOTHIN' I CAN **DO**... NO WAY I CAN **STOP** 'EM!

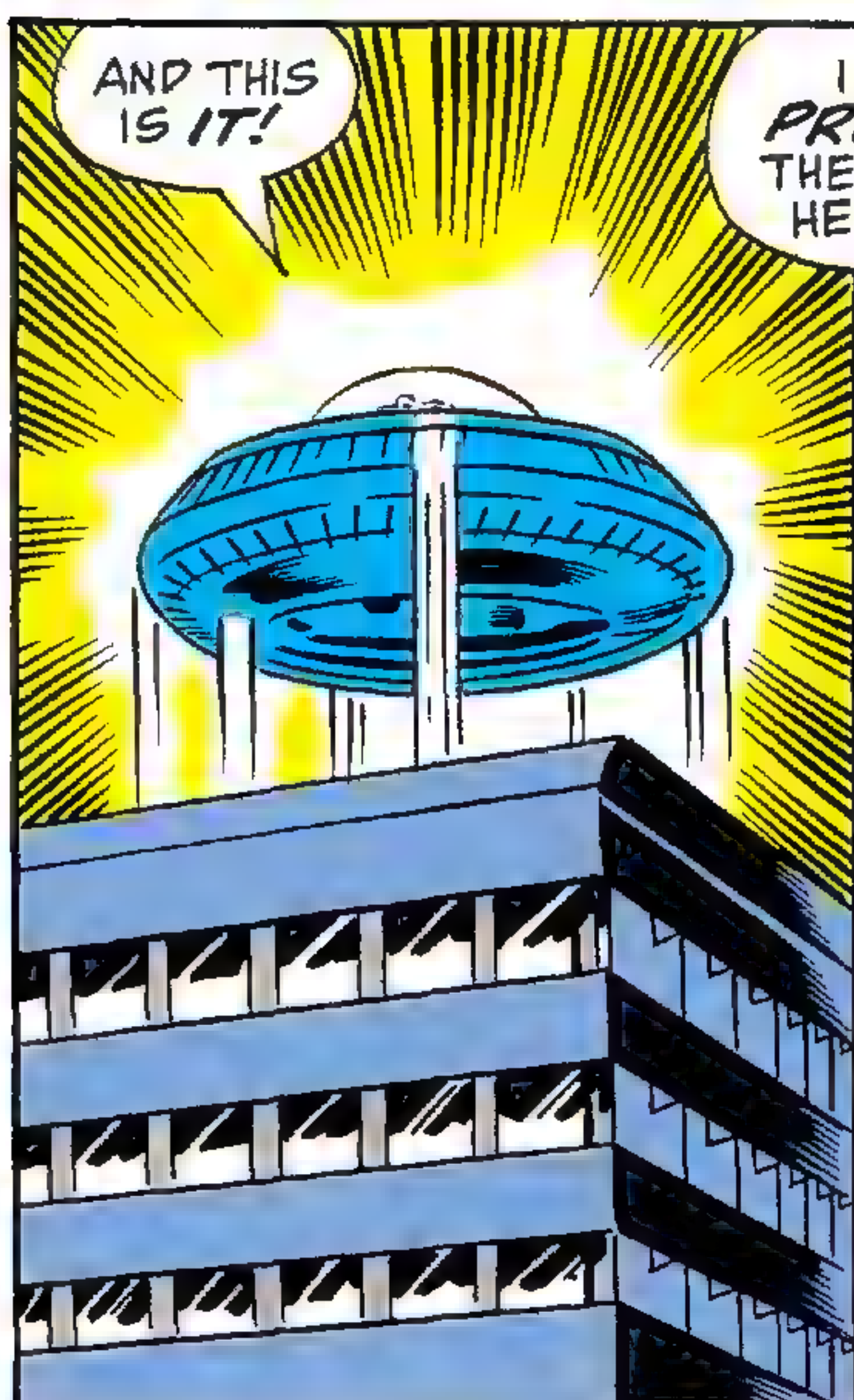
NO ONE CAN HELP...CEPTIN' THE **FF!** BUT... IT'S TOO MUCH ...TO EVEN **HOPE** FOR!



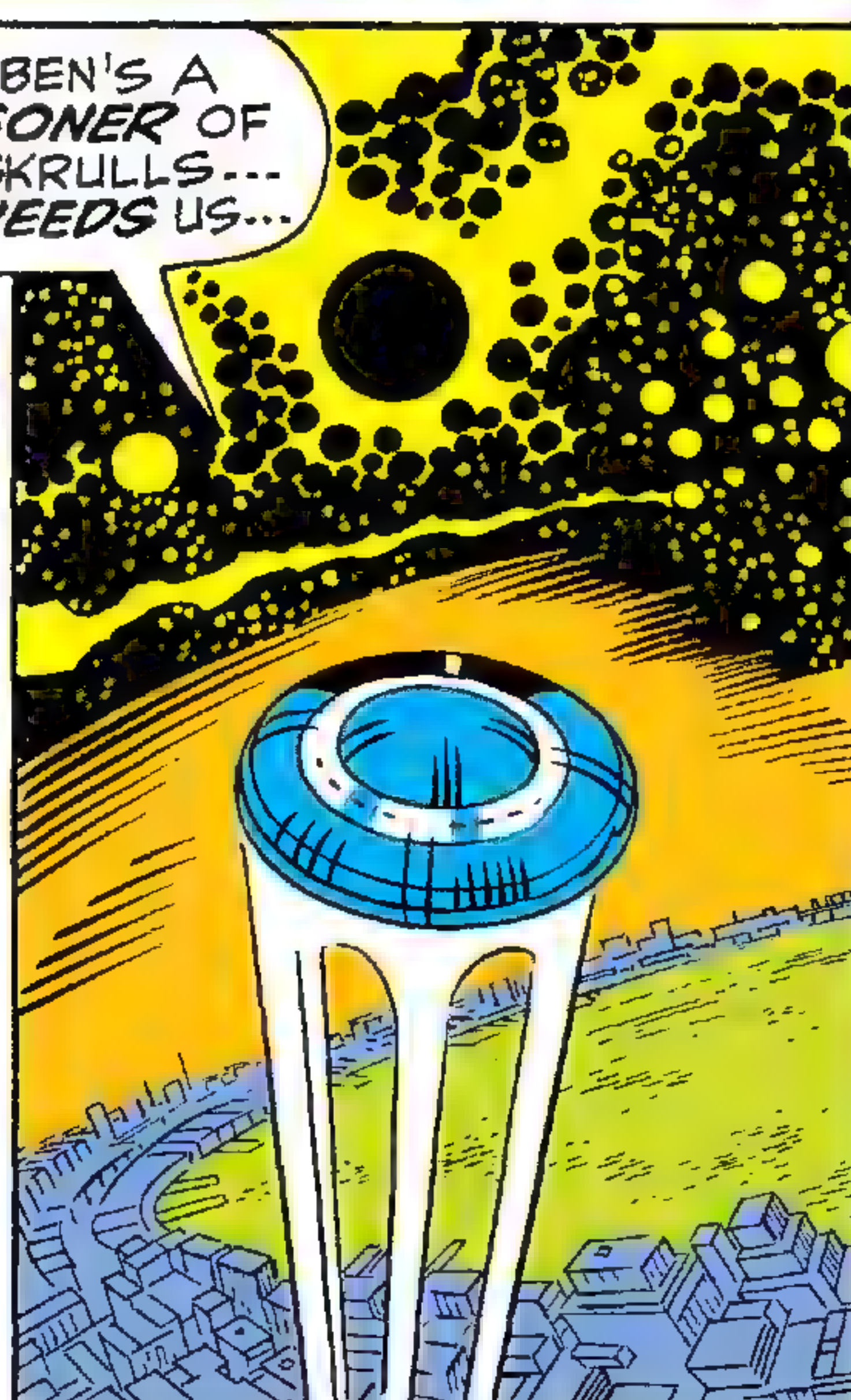
AT THAT VERY INSTANT... IN ANOTHER PART OF THE UNIVERSE ...

I HOPE IT'S NOT A WILD-GOOSE CHASE, REED!

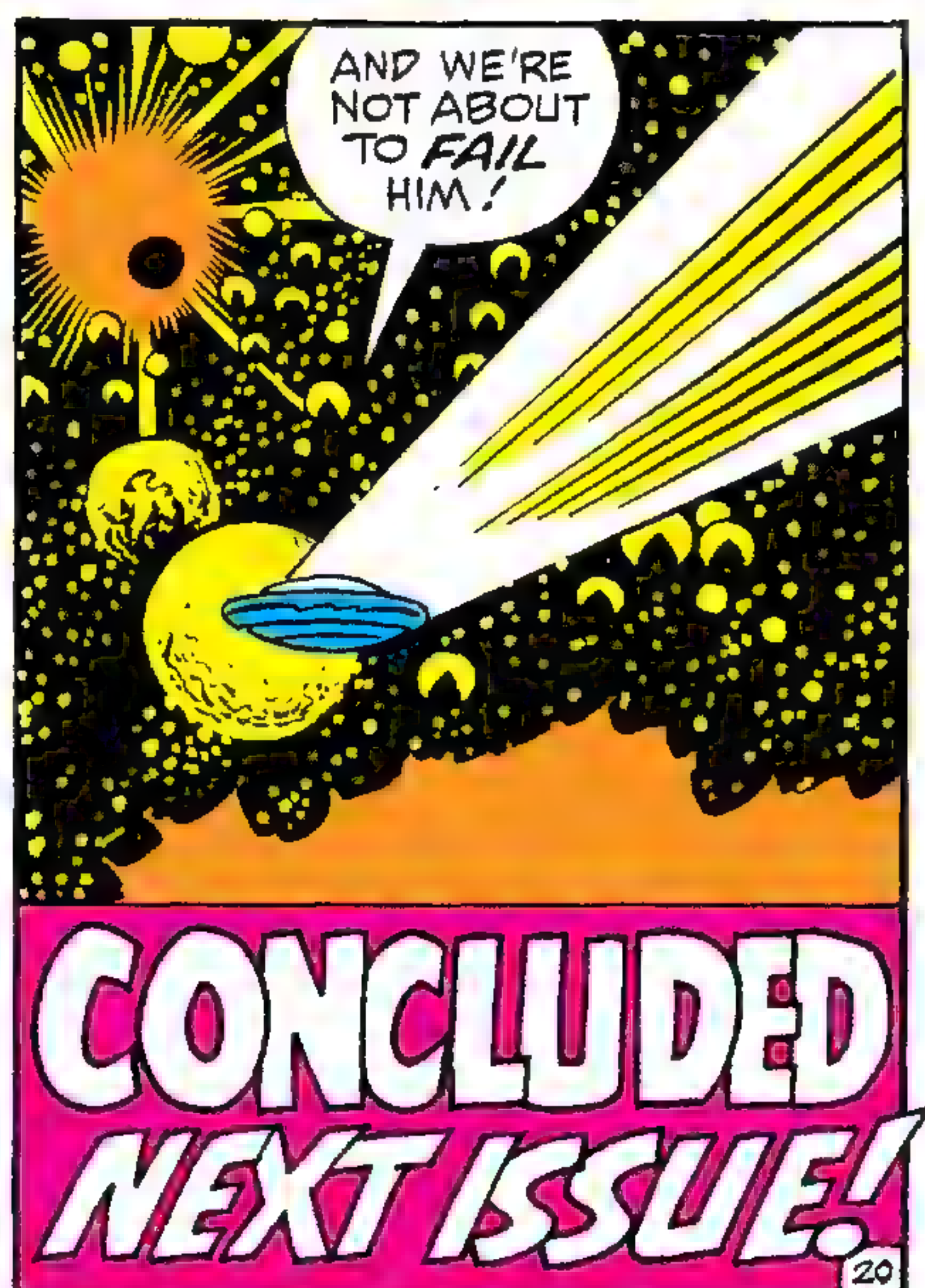
THERE'S ONLY **ONE** WAY TO FIND OUT!



AND THIS IS IT!



IF BEN'S A **PRISONER** OF THE SKRULLS... HE **NEEDS** US...



AND WE'RE NOT ABOUT TO **FAIL** HIM!

CONCLUDED
NEXT ISSUE!

FANTASTIC
FOUR

15¢

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93

DEC

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!



Fantastic FOUR



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP



THE FABULOUS **FANTASTIC FOUR**, TOGETHER AGAIN--AT LAST!

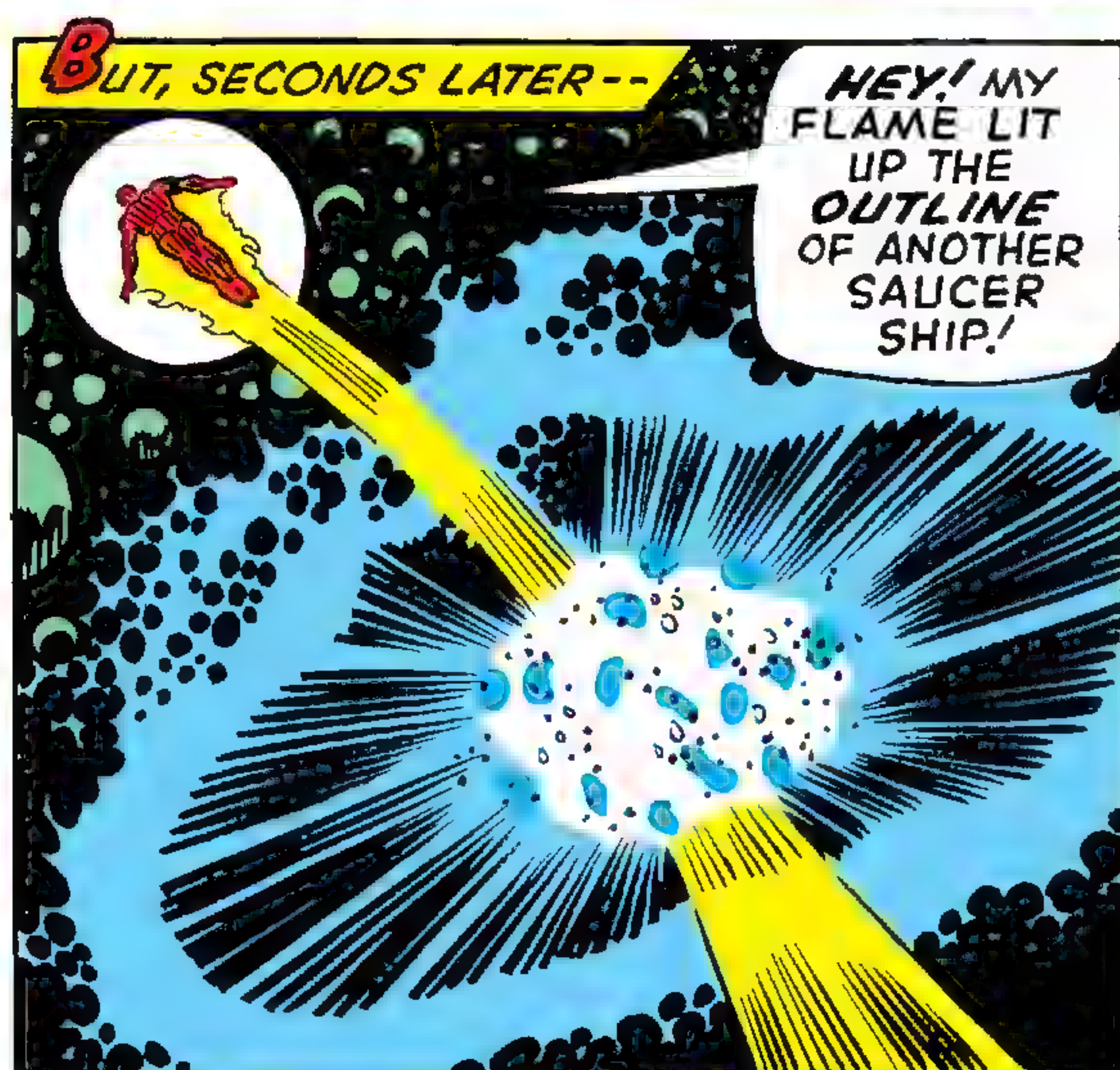
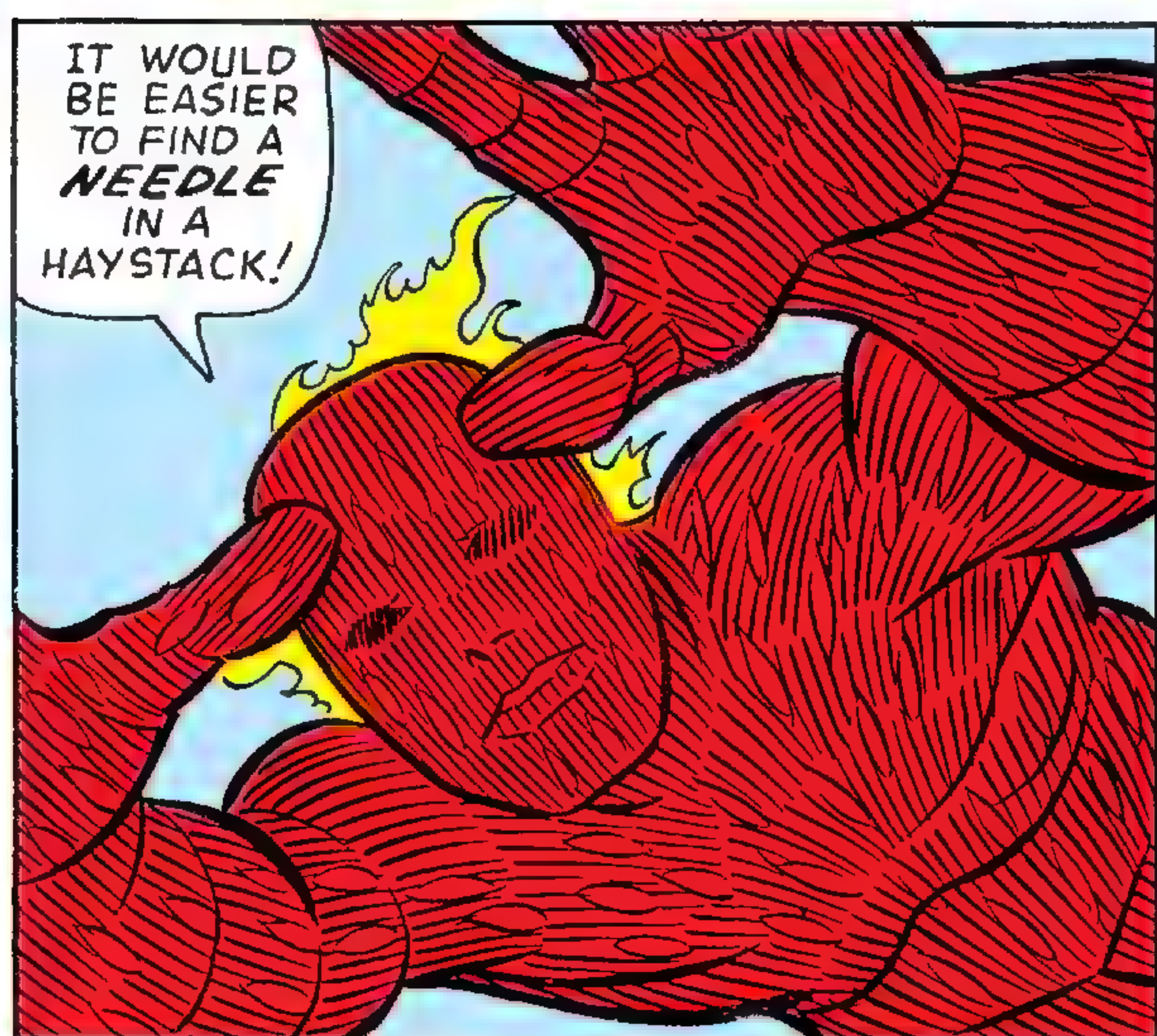
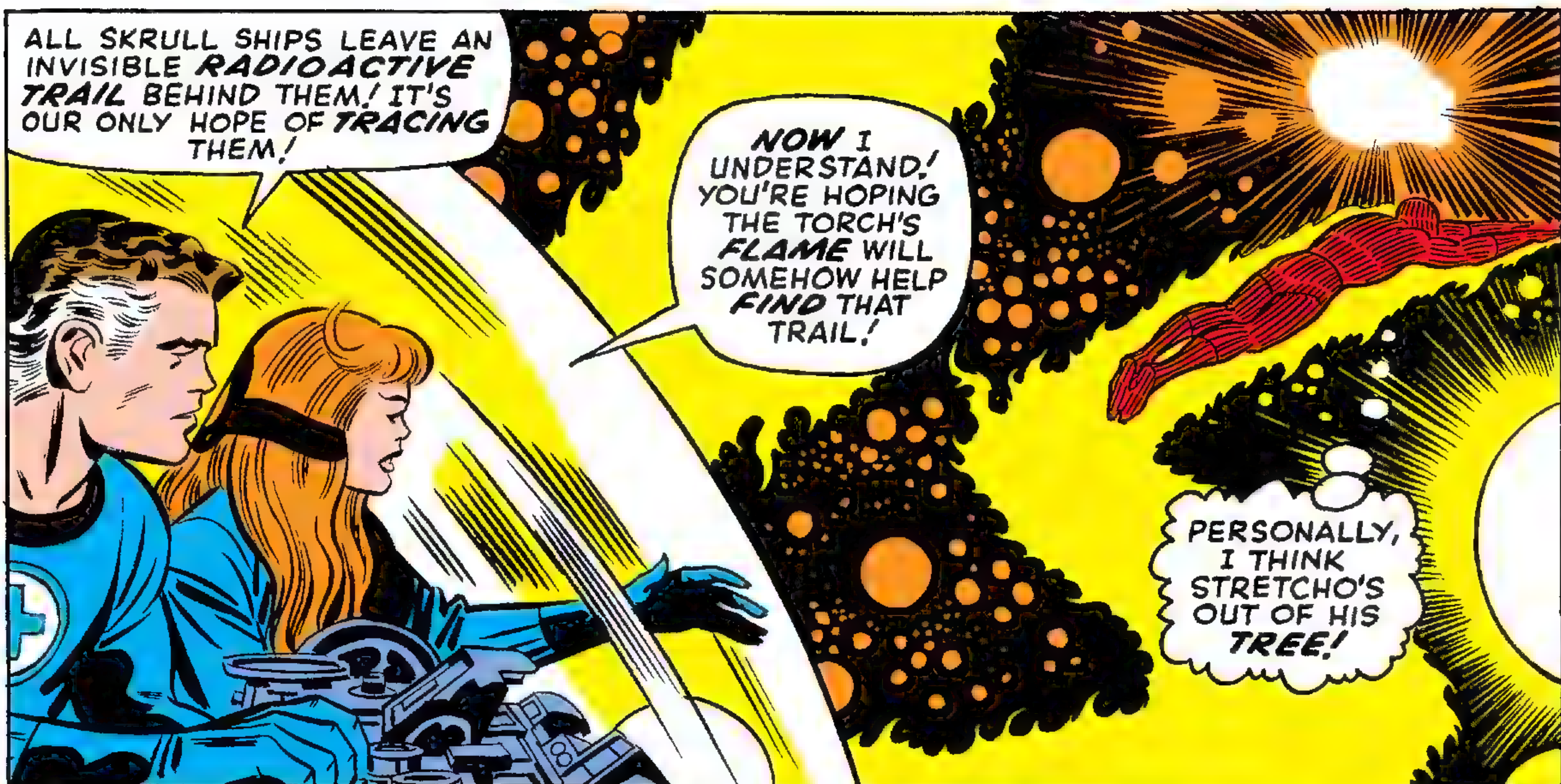
AT THE MERCY OF TOP GUN

THE MIGHTY THING HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY THE SLAYER AND BROUGHT TO THE FAR-OFF SKRULL GALAXY TO FIGHT IN THE GREAT GAMES! BUT, AS YOU CAN SEE, MR. FANTASTIC, CRYSTAL, AND THE HUMAN TORCH ARE HOT ON HIS TRAIL! (NO PUN INTENDED!) AND NOW--THE CATALYSMIC CONCLUSION OF OUR STIRRING SAGA--!

I DON'T GET IT, REED! HOW CAN WE FIND ONE HIDDEN **SKRULL PLANET** OUT HERE--IN THE ENDLESS COSMOS?

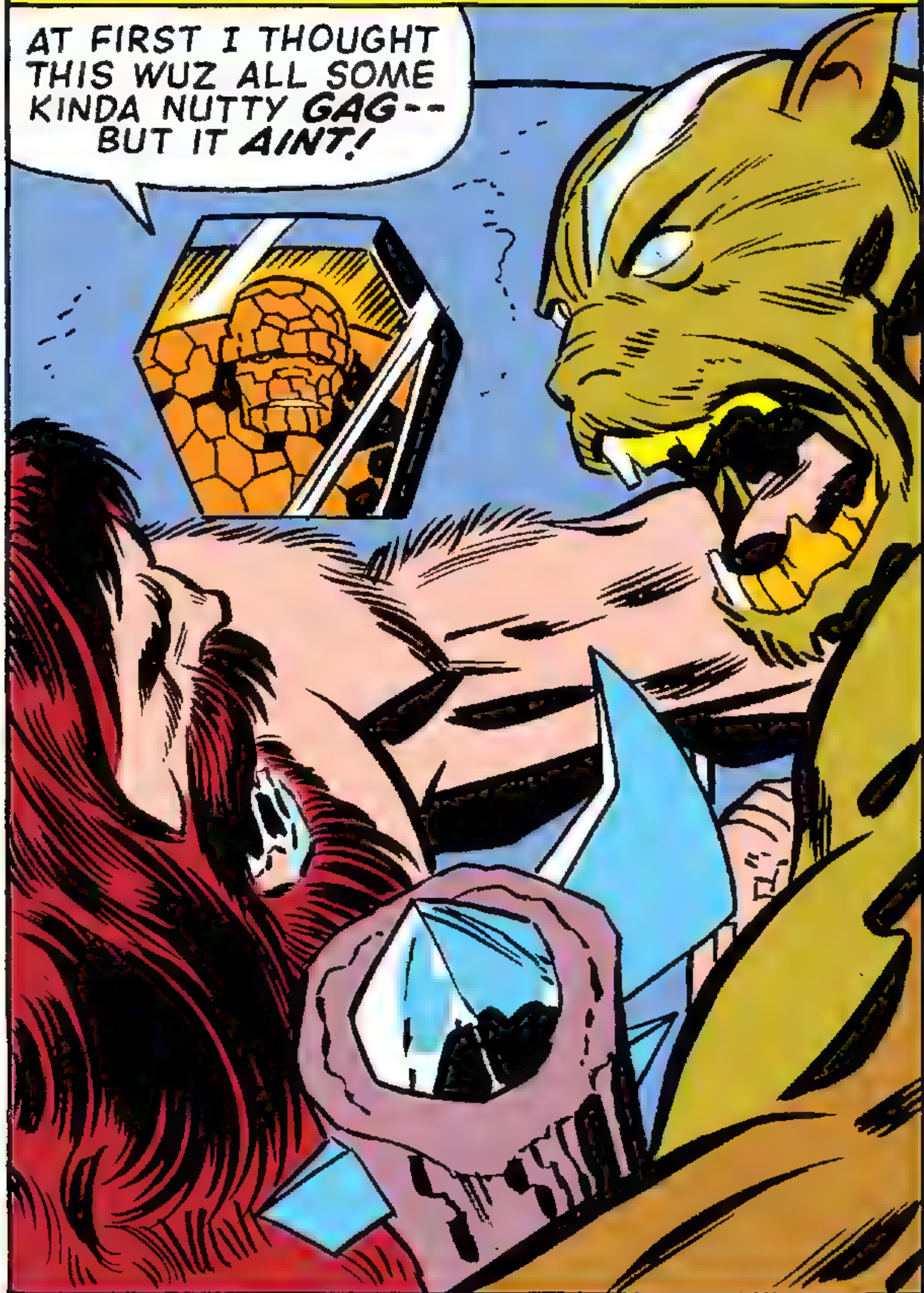
JUST FOLLOW MY **ORDERS, JOHNNY!** MAKE A **FLYING SWEEP** OF THE AREA--AND YOU'LL **SEE!**

BY
STAN LEE
and
JACK KIRBY
FRANK GIACOIA,
INKER
ARTIE SIMEK,
LETTERER



EVEN AS MR. FANTASTIC SPEAKS--THE ONE HE IS SEARCHING FOR AWAITS HIS TURN IN THE ARENA OF DEATH--

AT FIRST I THOUGHT THIS WUZ ALL SOME KINDA NUTTY GAG-- BUT IT AINT!



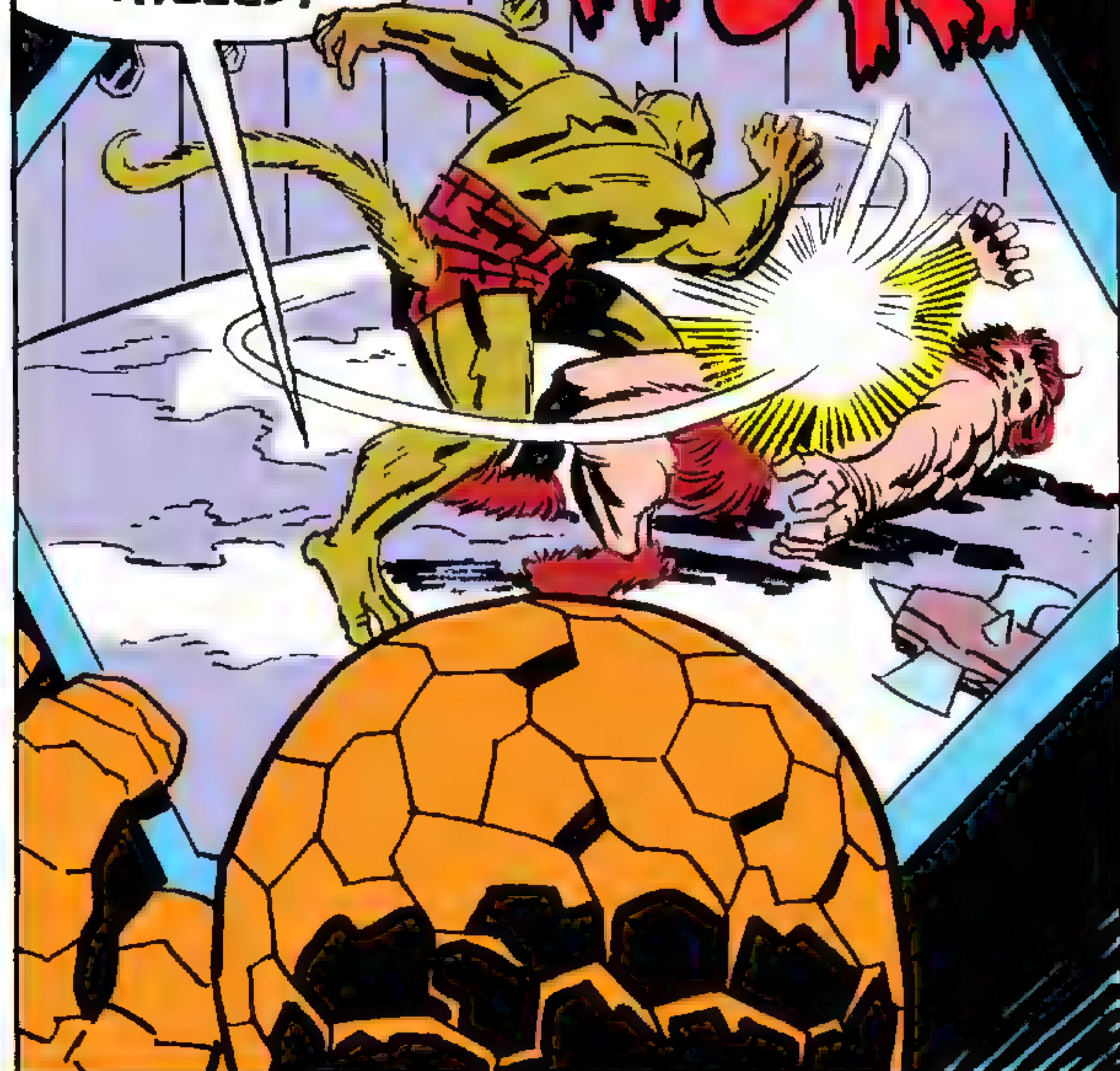
THE SKRULLS GIT THEIR KICKS BY TAKIN' **SLAVES** FROM EVERY PLANET RAID--AND MAKIN' 'EM **BATTLE** FOR THEIR LIVES!



AN' IF A SLAVE **WON'T** FIGHT-- THEY THREATEN TO TOSS HIS **HOME PLANET** RIGHT OUTTA ORBIT!

SO A GUY AINT GOT NO **CHOICE** --'CEPTIN' TO GO OUT THERE AN' GIT HIMSELF **KILLED!**

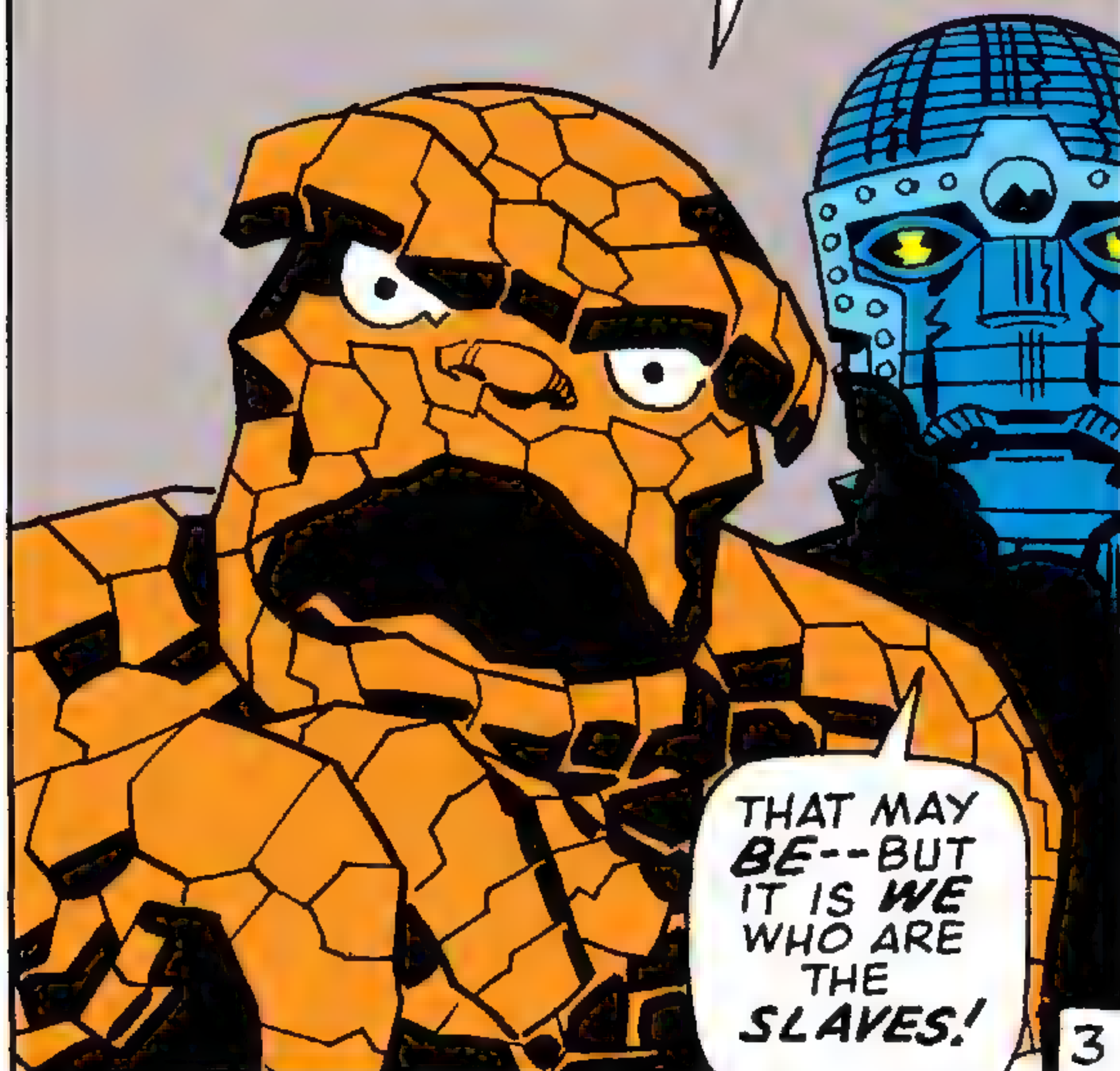
THOK!



HE'S GOT 'IM **DOWN!** NOW HE'S STANDIN' **OVER** 'IM-- AND THE **CROWD** OUT THERE IS **ROARIN'!**

IT MEANS THE PRIMITOID MUST **DIE!** THE **CAT-MAN** HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO OBEY THE WISHES OF HIS **MASTERS!**

MASTERS MY **FOOT!** THEY'RE JUST A BUNCH'A NO-GOOD, MURDERIN' **SKRULLS!**



THAT MAY **BE--** BUT IT IS **WE** WHO ARE THE **SLAVES!**



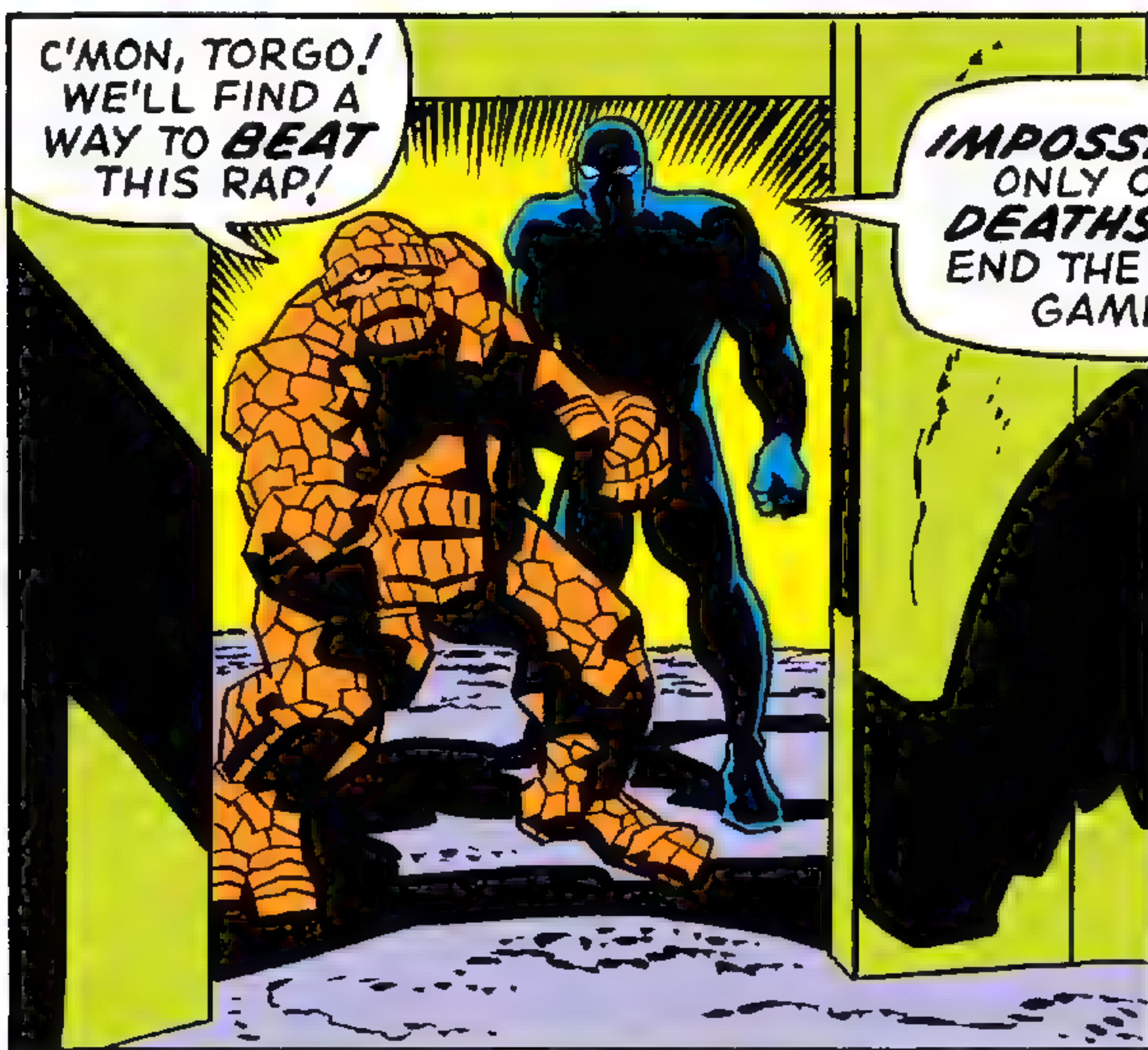
LOOK AT 'EM--UP IN THE STANDS--TRYIN' TO DRESS 'N ACT LIKE **EARTHMEN** IN THE OLD-TIME **GANGSTER DAYS!**

JUST LEMME GIT MY **HANDS** ON SOME OF 'EM--!



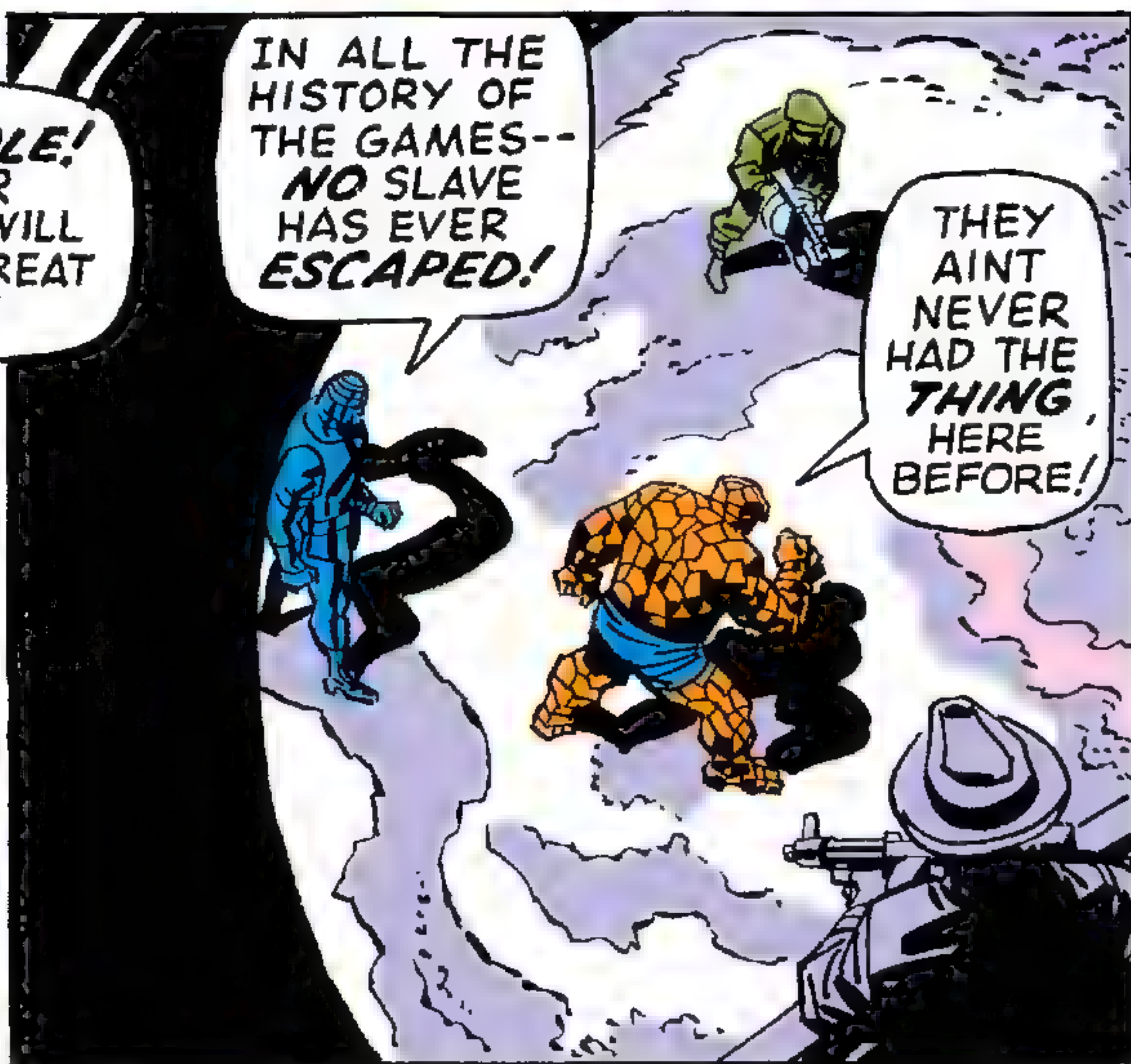
IF IT'S A **FIGHT** YOU WANT--YOU'LL **HAVE** YOUR CHANCE--RIGHT **NOW!** THEY'RE **READY** FOR YOU OUT THERE!

ANYTHING TO GIT **OUTTA** HERE!



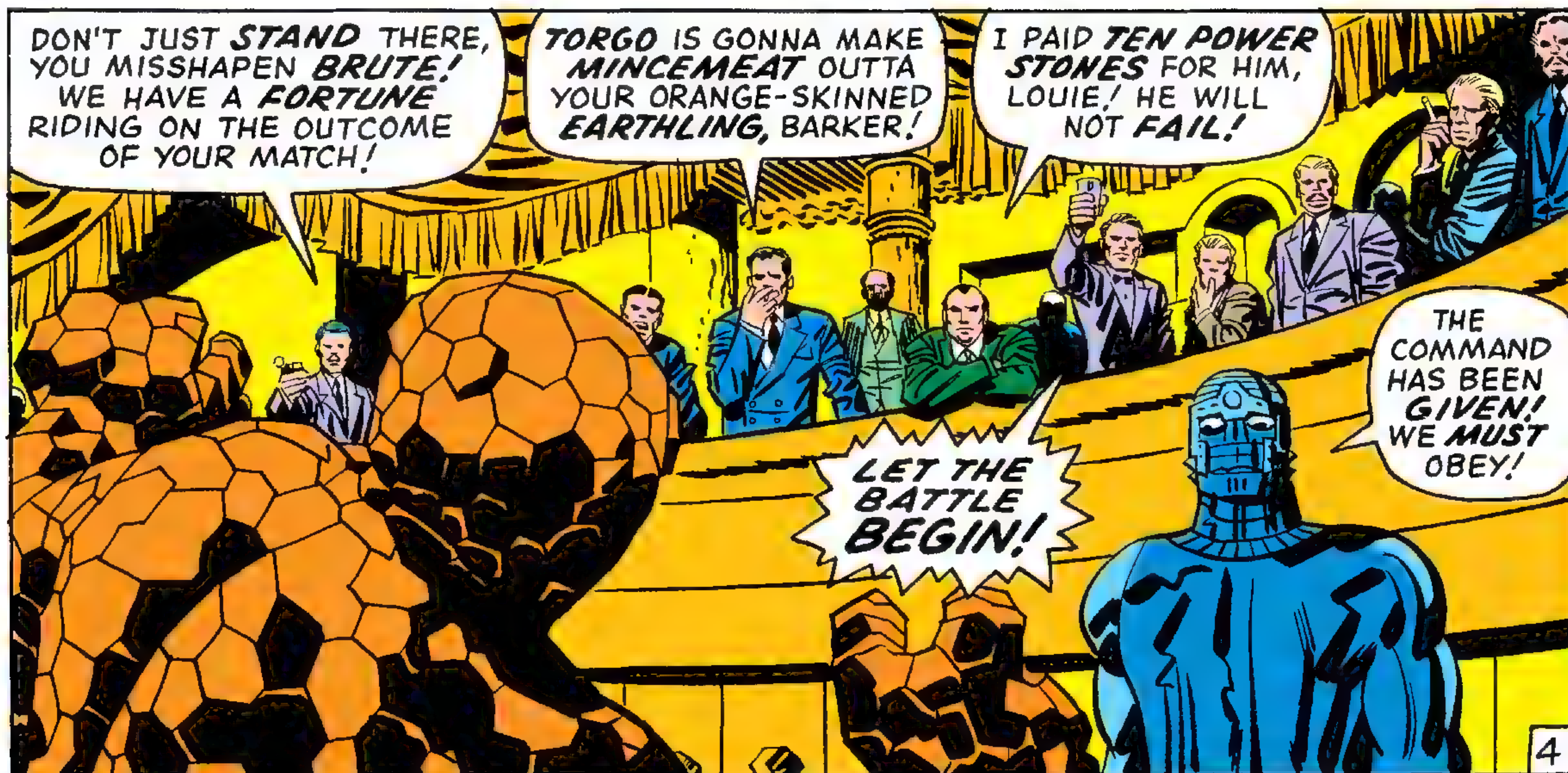
C'MON, **TORGO!** WE'LL FIND A WAY TO **BEAT** THIS RAP!

IMPOSSIBLE! ONLY OUR **DEATHS** WILL END THE GREAT GAME!



IN ALL THE HISTORY OF THE GAMES--**NO SLAVE** HAS EVER **ESCAPED!**

THEY AINT NEVER HAD THE **THING** HERE BEFORE!



DON'T JUST **STAND** THERE, YOU MISSHAPEN **BRUTE!** WE HAVE A **FORTUNE** RIDING ON THE OUTCOME OF YOUR MATCH!

TORGO IS GONNA MAKE **MINCEMEAT** OUTTA YOUR ORANGE-SKINNED **EARTHLING, BARKER!**

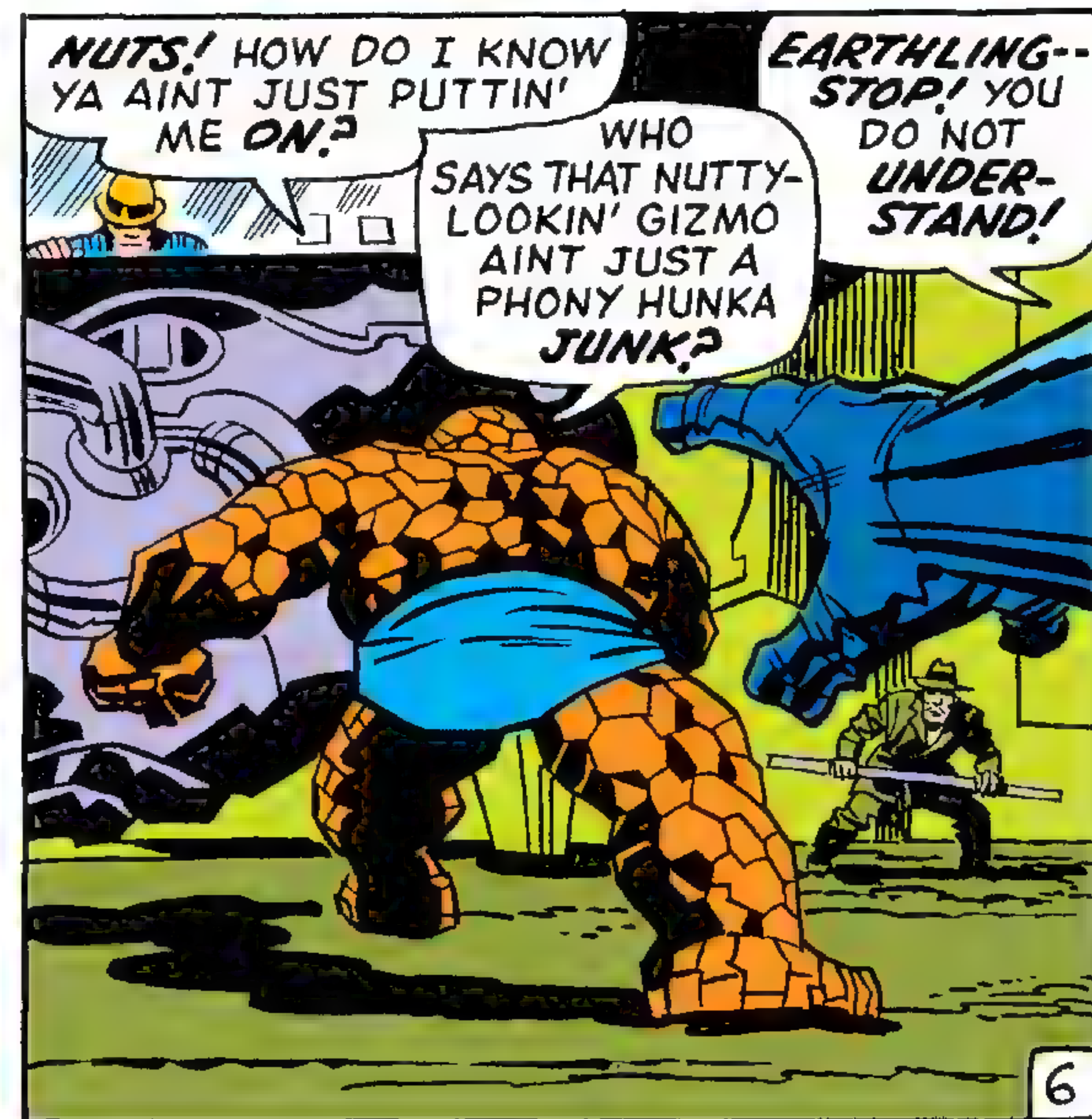
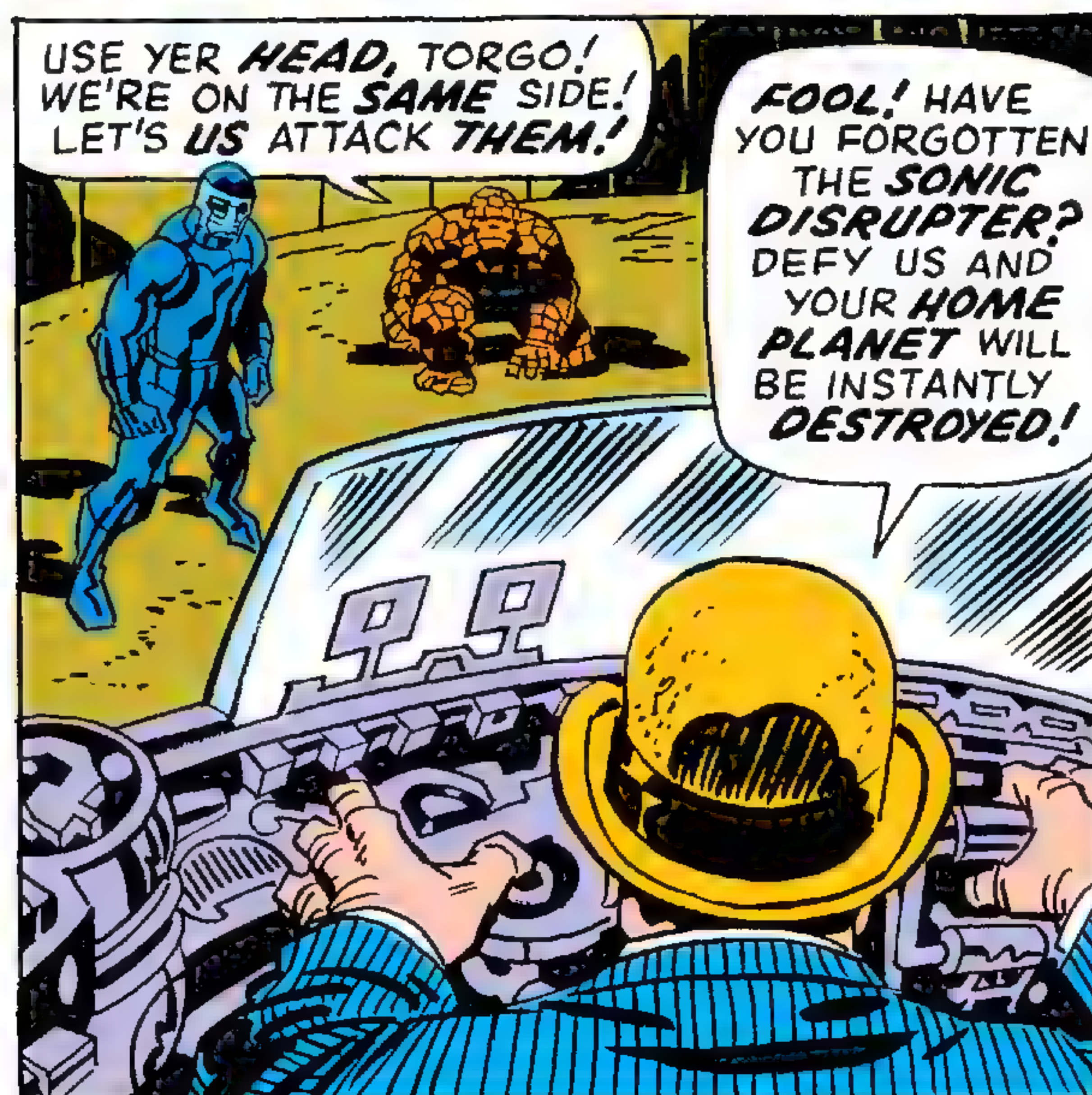
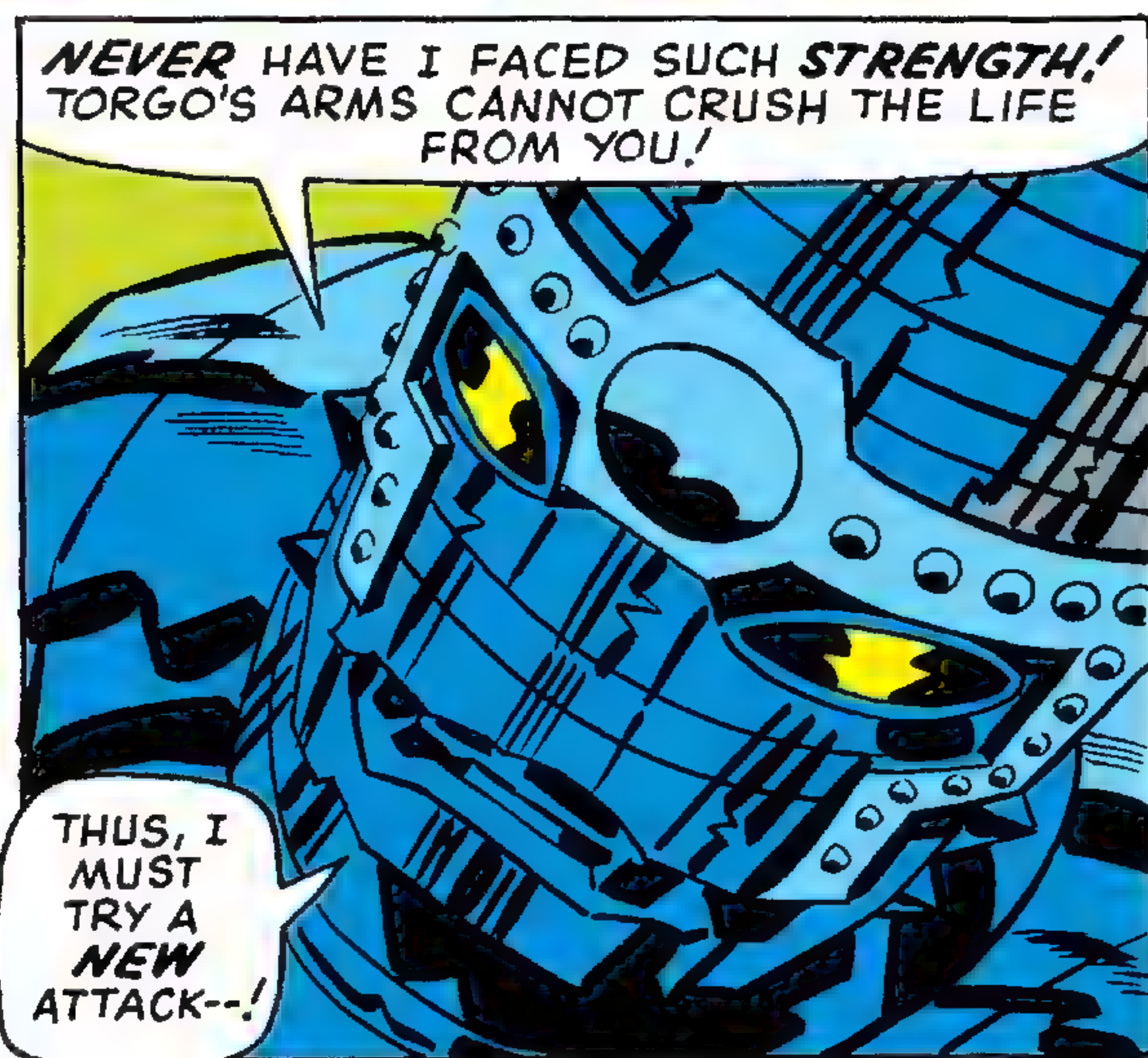
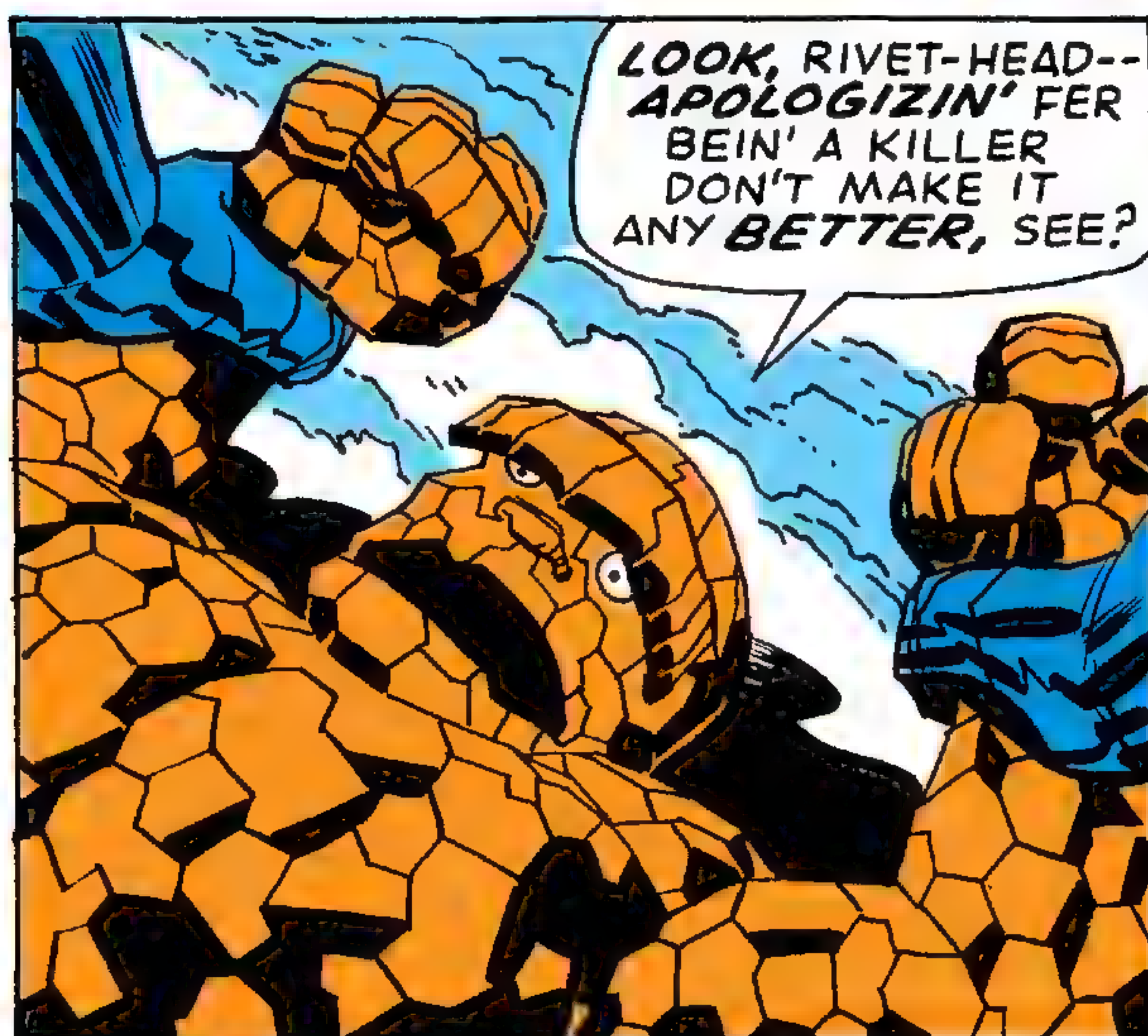
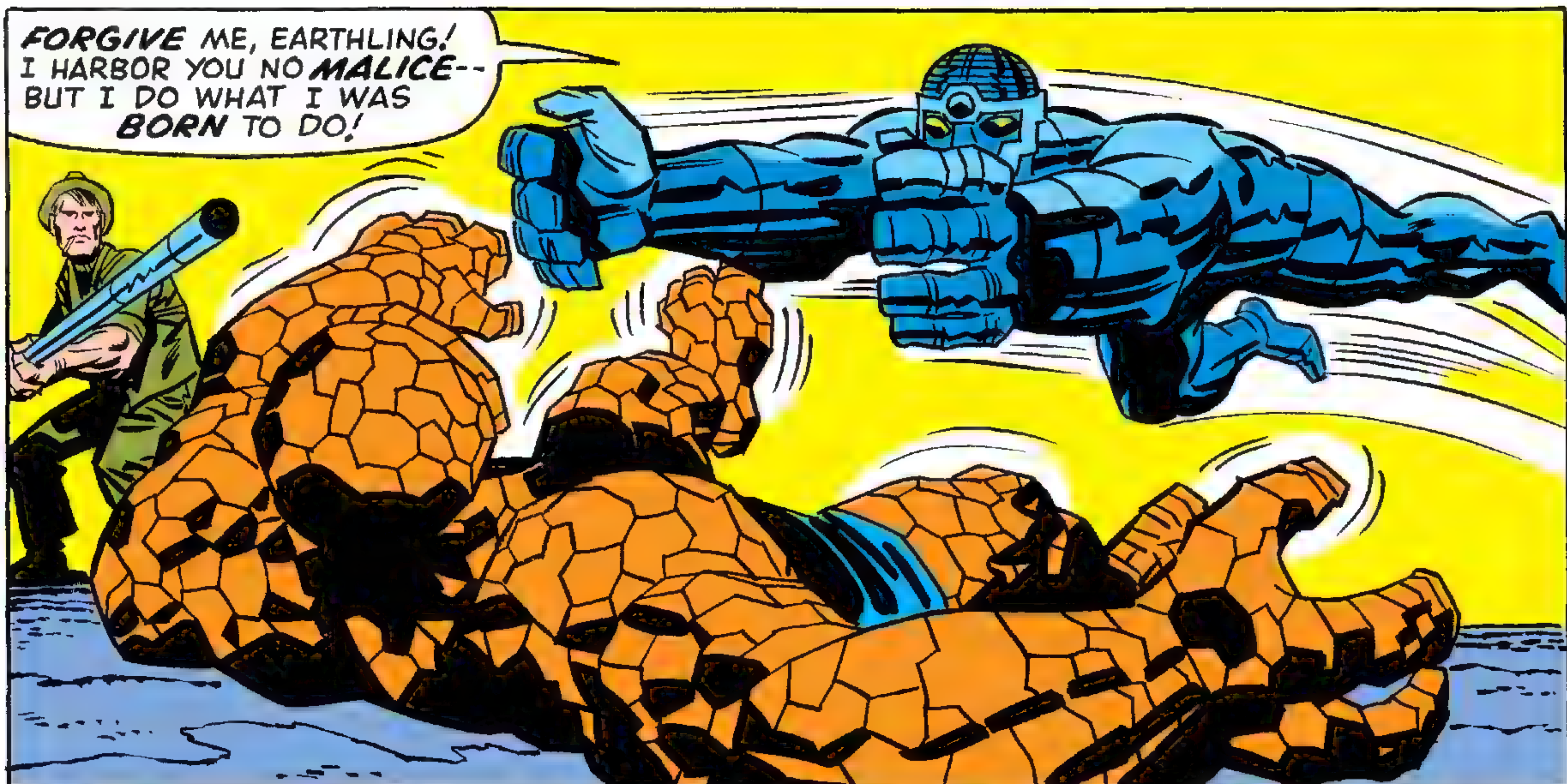
I PAID **TEN POWER STONES** FOR HIM, LOUIE! HE WILL NOT **FAIL!**

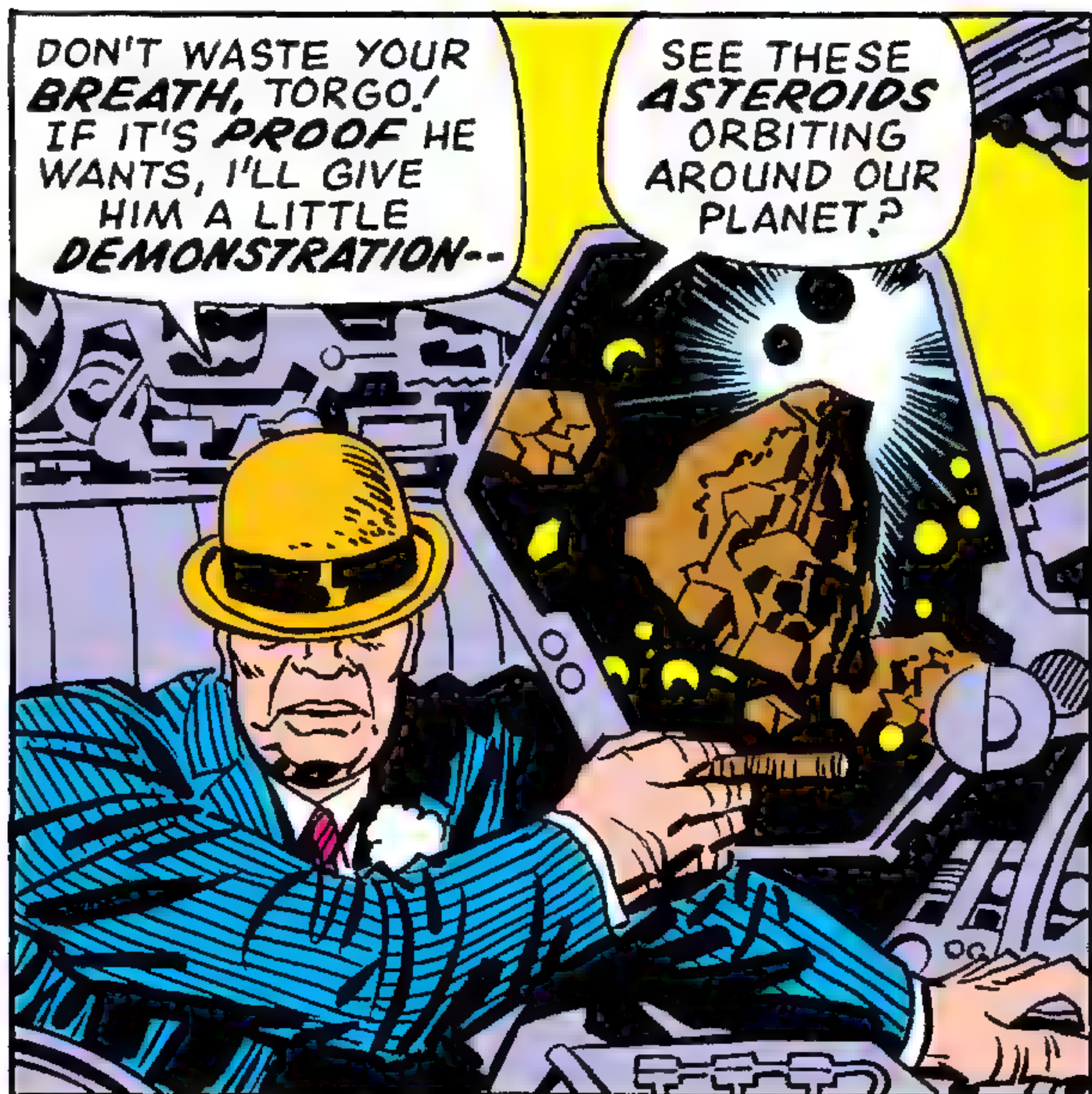
THE **COMMAND** HAS BEEN **GIVEN!** WE **MUST** OBEY!

LET THE BATTLE BEGIN!



I SHALL
FINISH YOU
QUICKLY--
WITH AS
LITTLE **PAIN**
AS POSSIBLE!



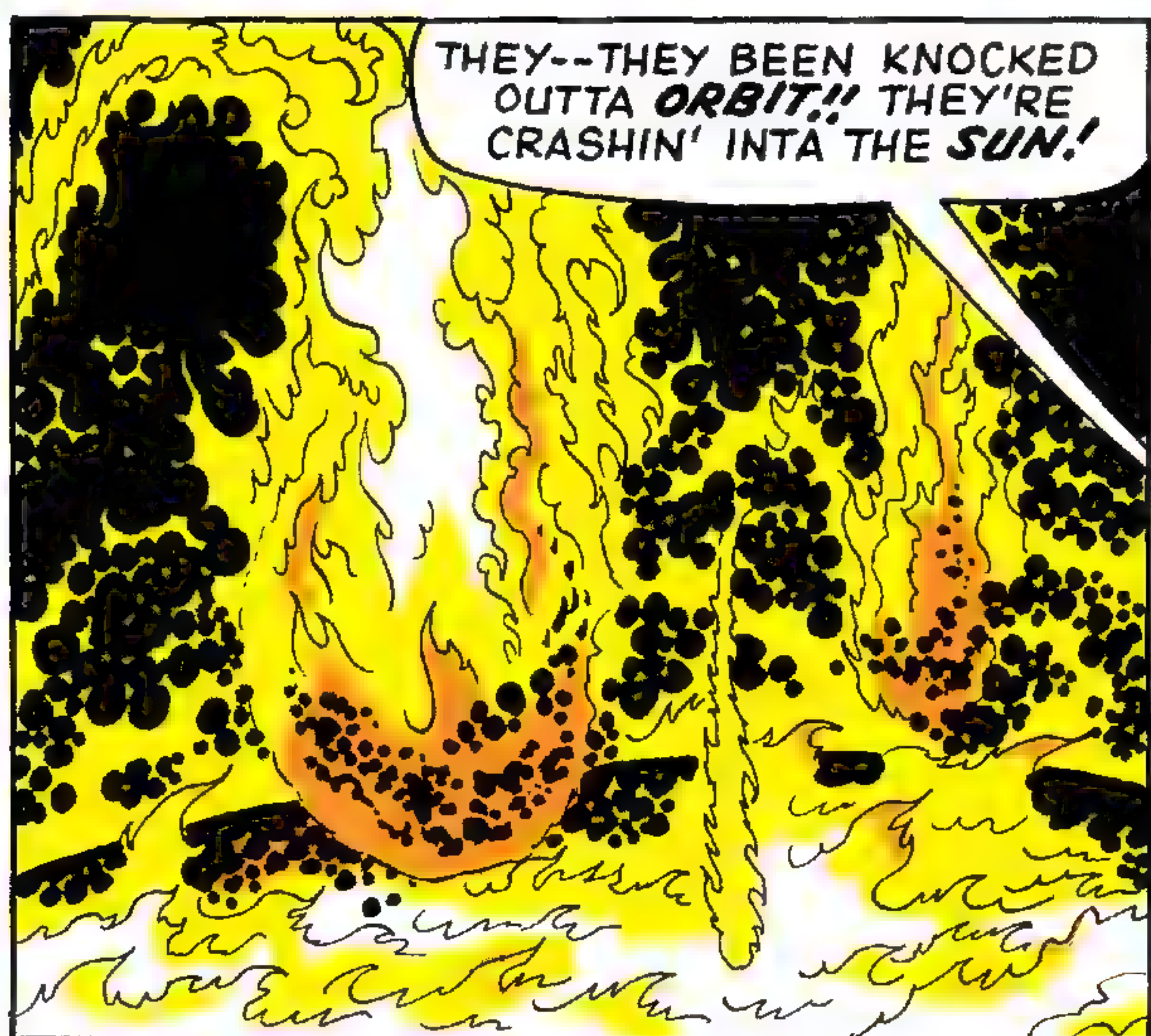


DON'T WASTE YOUR **BREATH, TORG**!
IF IT'S **PROOF** HE
WANTS, I'LL GIVE
HIM A LITTLE
DEMONSTRATION--

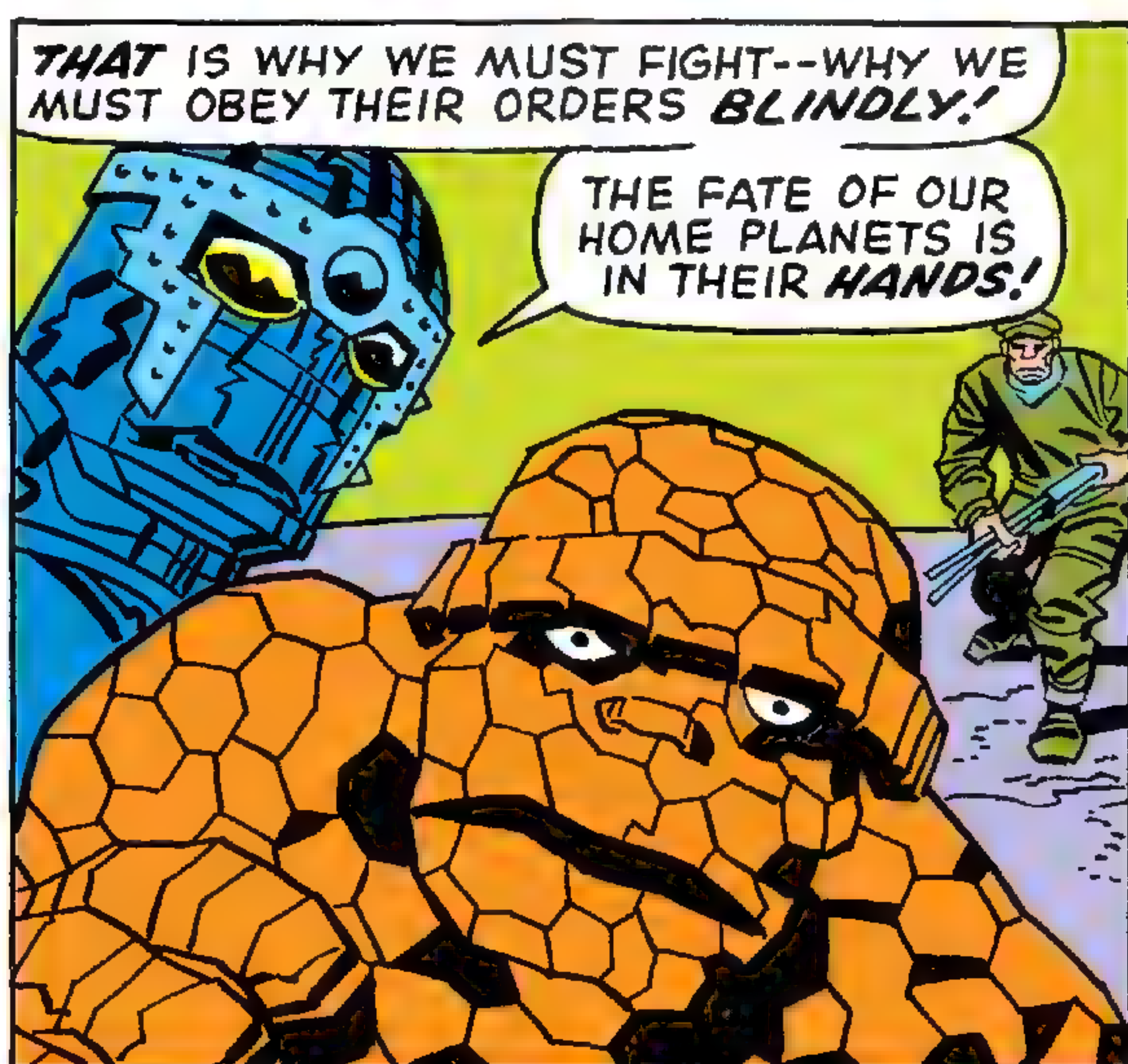
SEE THESE
ASTEROIDS
ORBITING
AROUND OUR
PLANET?



NOW SEE WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN
THEY'RE **HIT** BY
OUR SILENT
SONIC RAY!

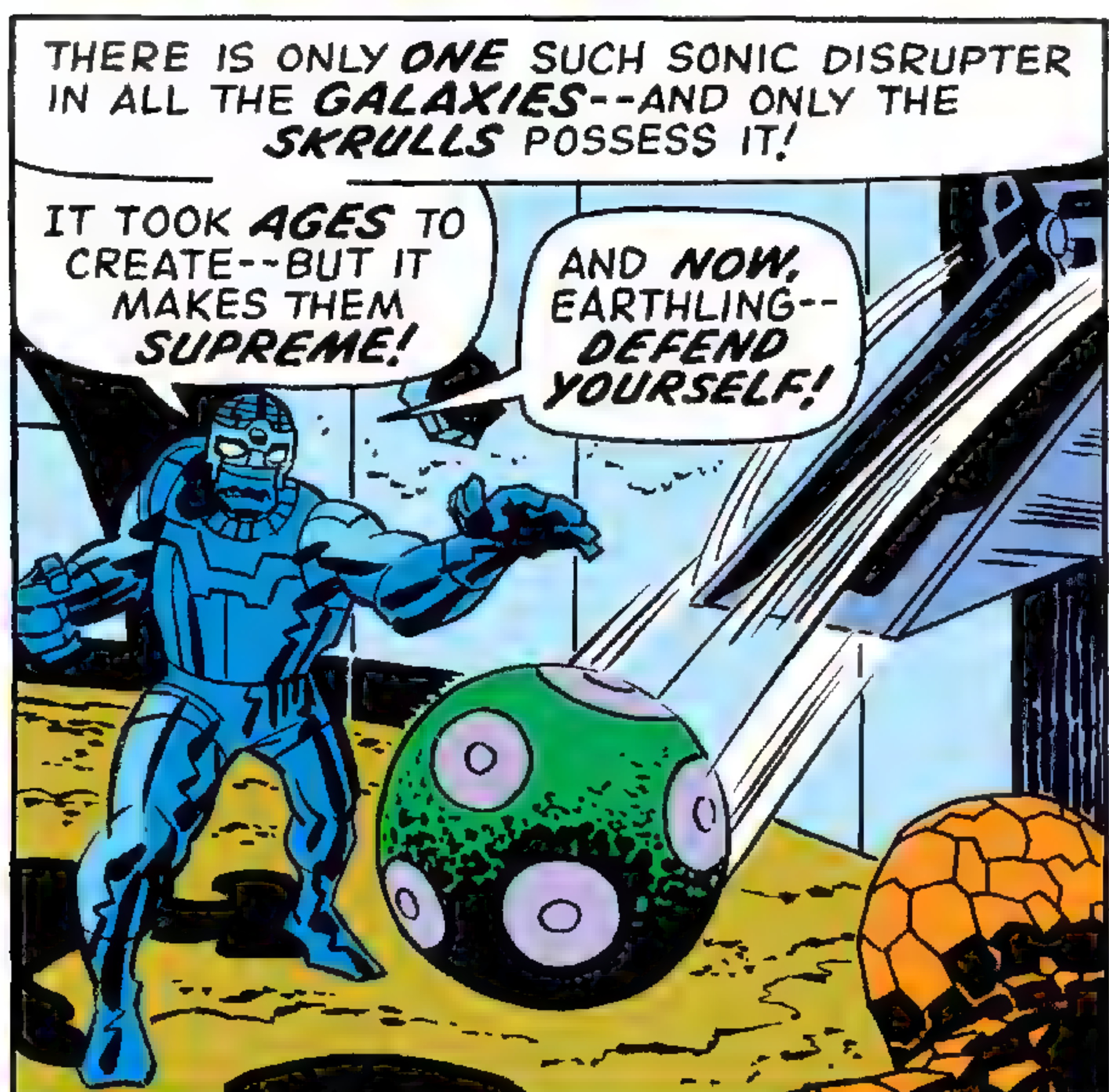


THEY--THEY BEEN KNOCKED
OUTTA **ORBIT!!** THEY'RE
CRASHIN' INTO THE **SUN!**



THAT IS WHY WE MUST FIGHT--WHY WE
MUST OBEY THEIR ORDERS **BLINDLY!**

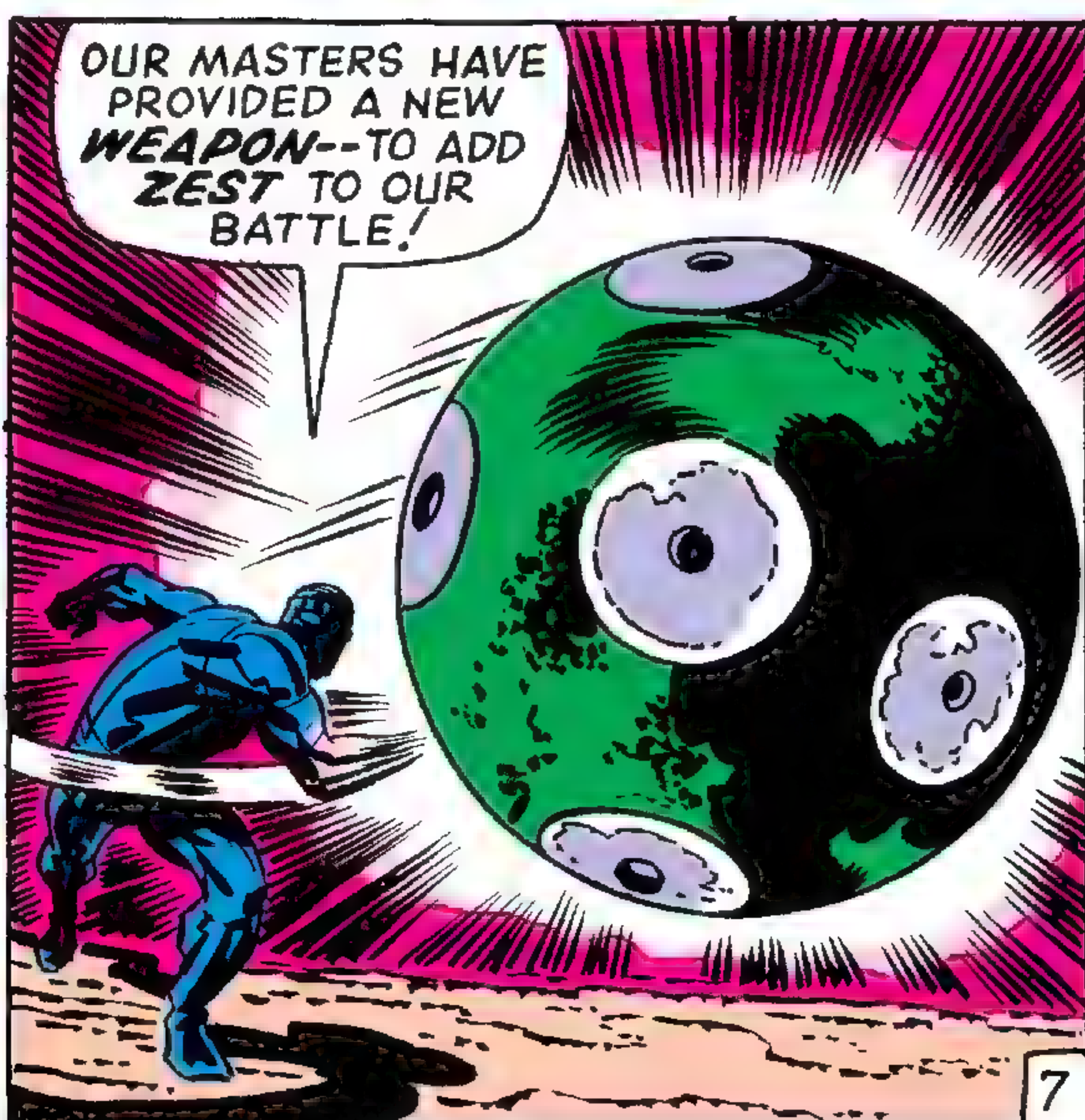
THE FATE OF OUR
HOME PLANETS IS
IN THEIR **HANDS!**



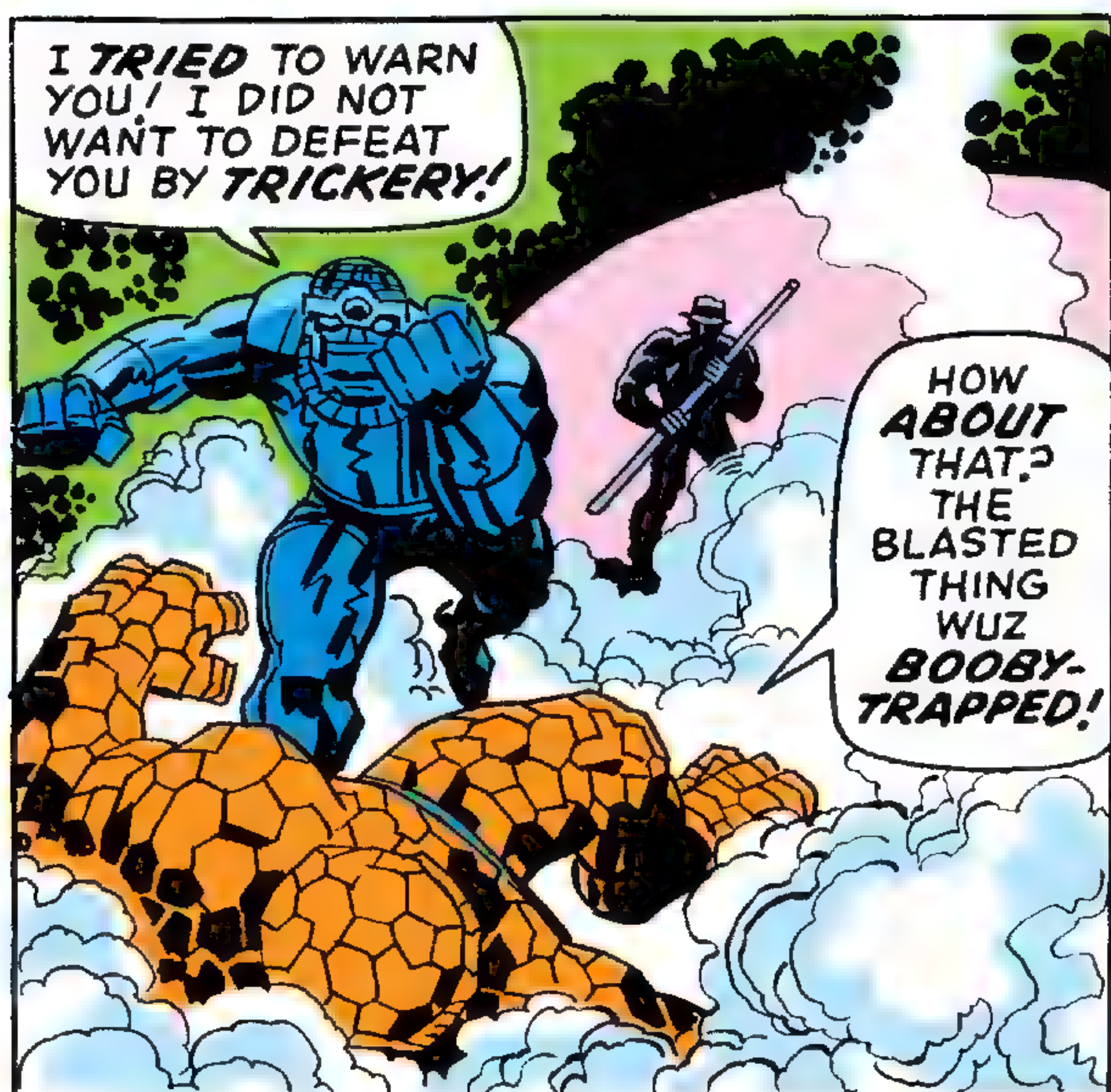
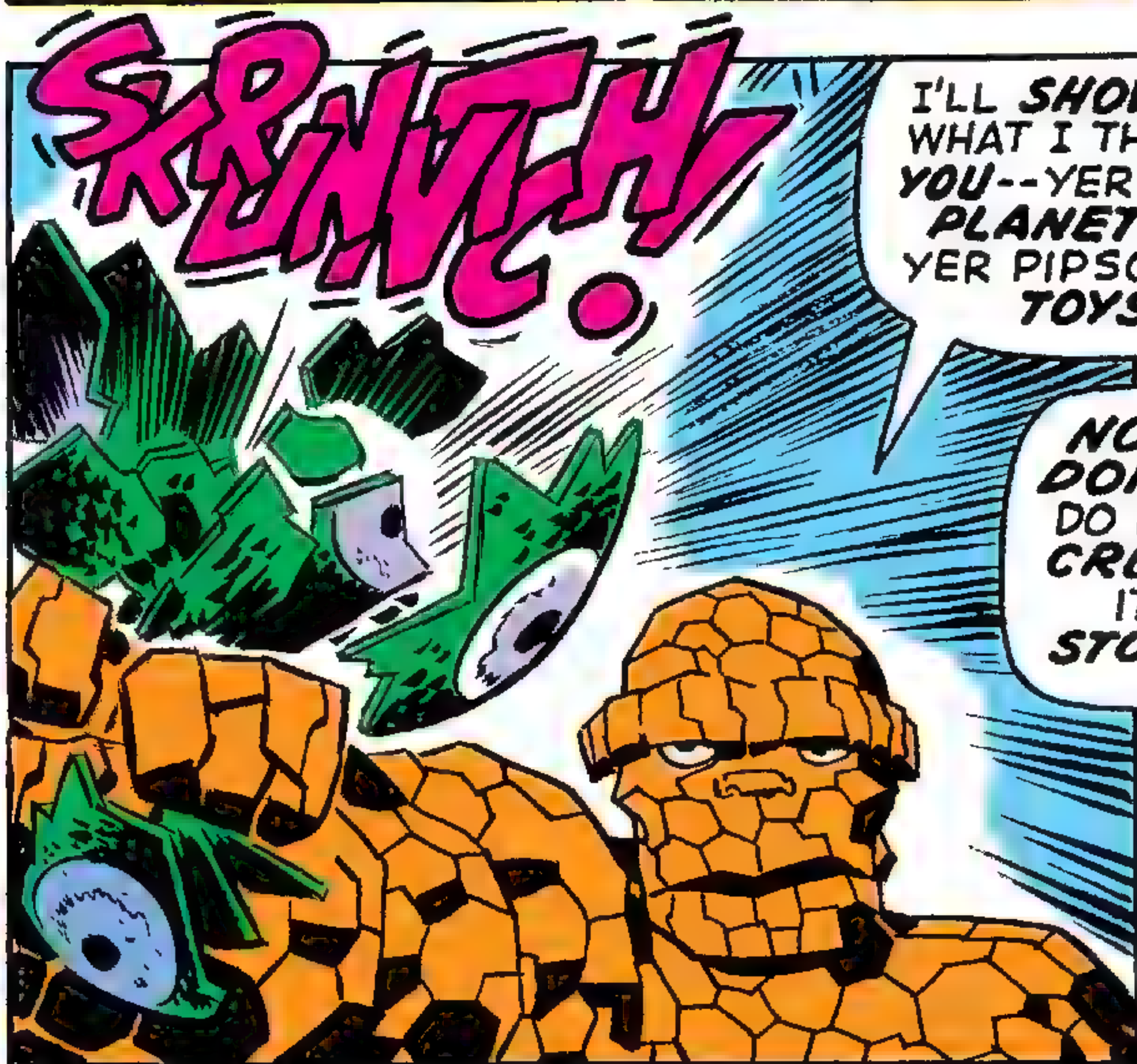
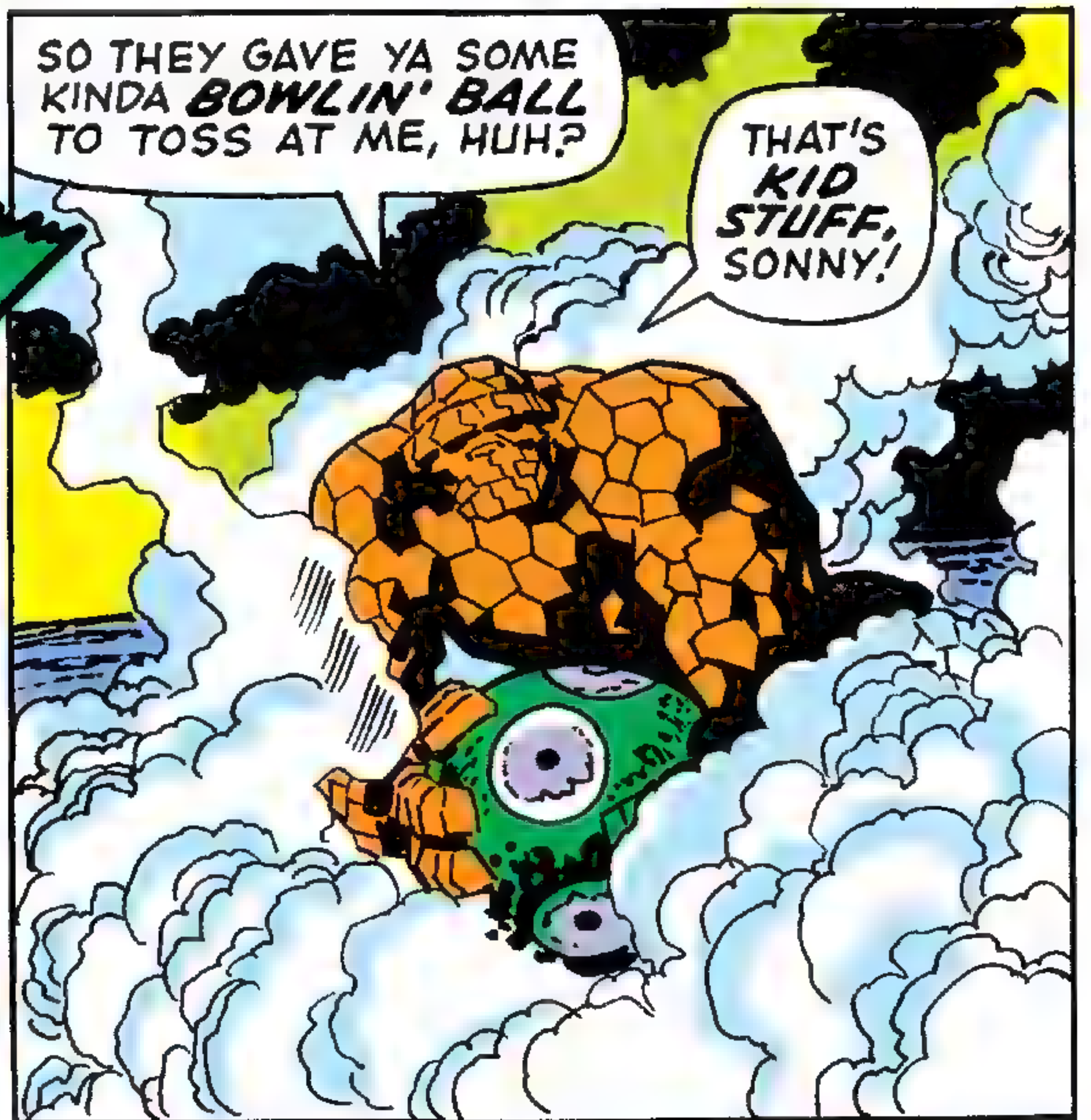
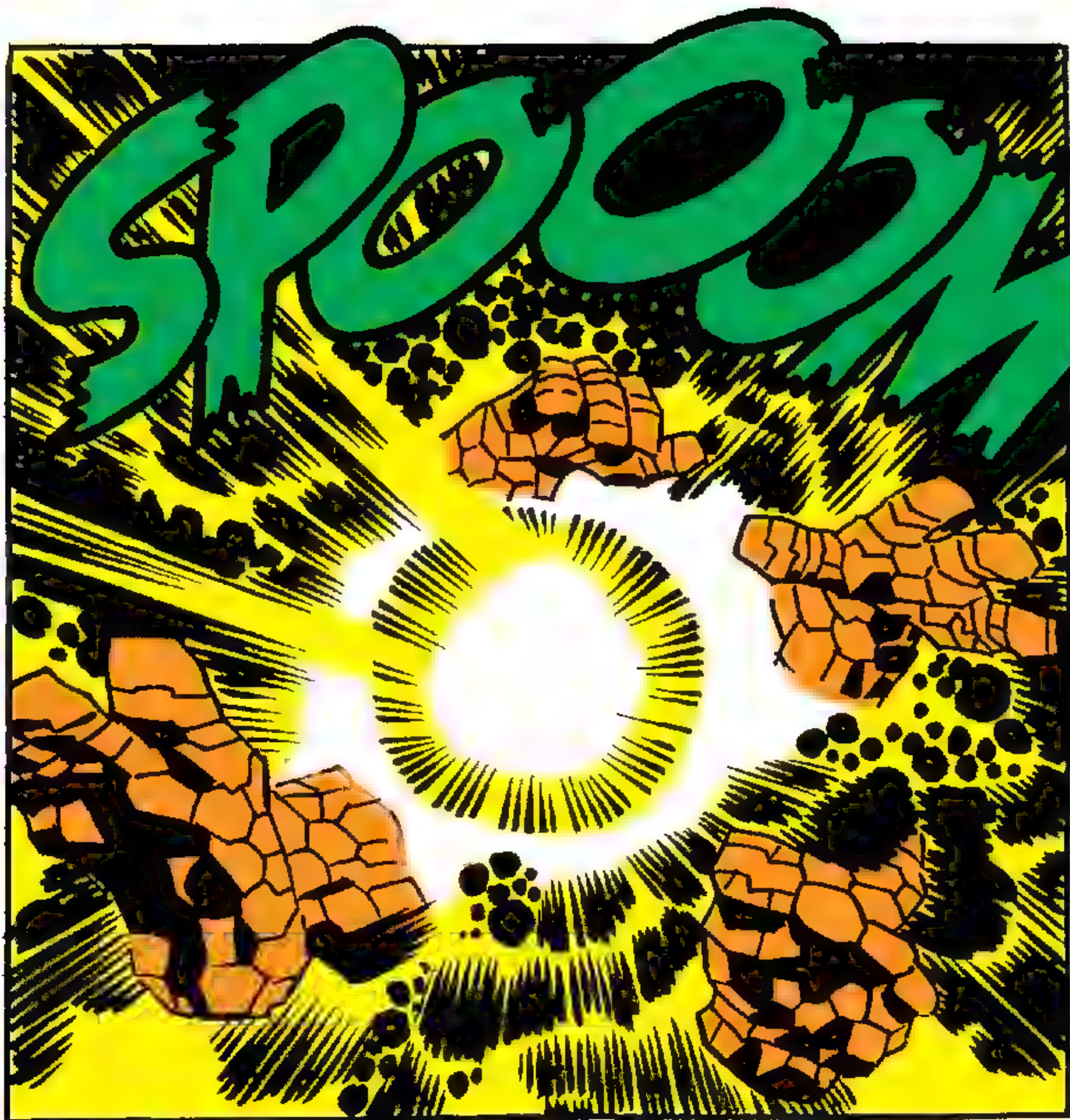
THERE IS ONLY **ONE** SUCH SONIC DISRUPTER
IN ALL THE **GALAXIES--**AND ONLY THE
SKRULLS POSSESS IT!

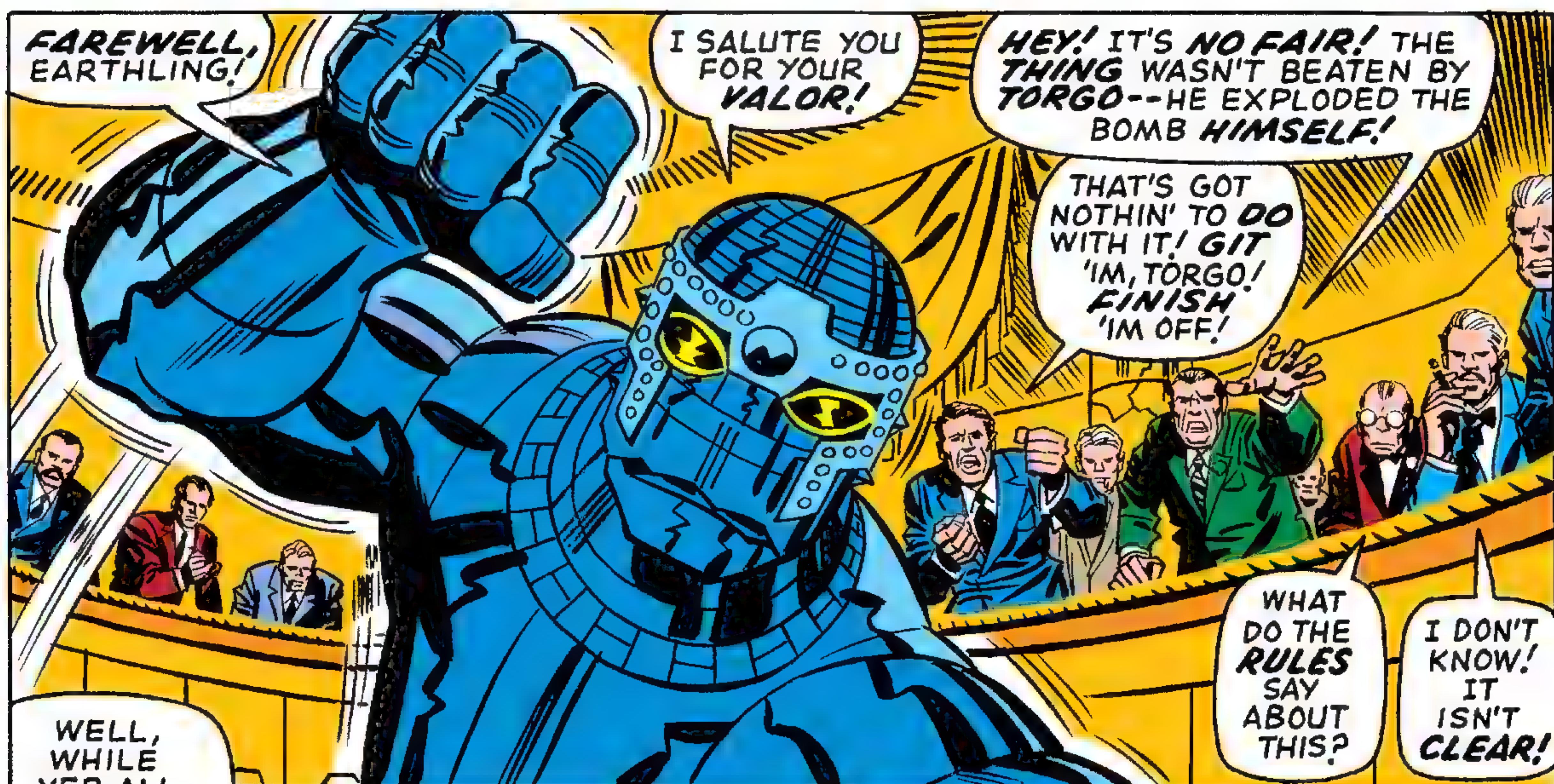
IT TOOK **AGES** TO
CREATE--BUT IT
MAKES THEM
SUPREME!

AND **NOW,**
EARTHLING--
DEFEND
YOURSELF!



OUR MASTERS HAVE
PROVIDED A NEW
WEAPON--TO ADD
ZEST TO OUR
BATTLE!





FAREWELL,
EARTHLING!

I SALUTE YOU
FOR YOUR
VALOR!

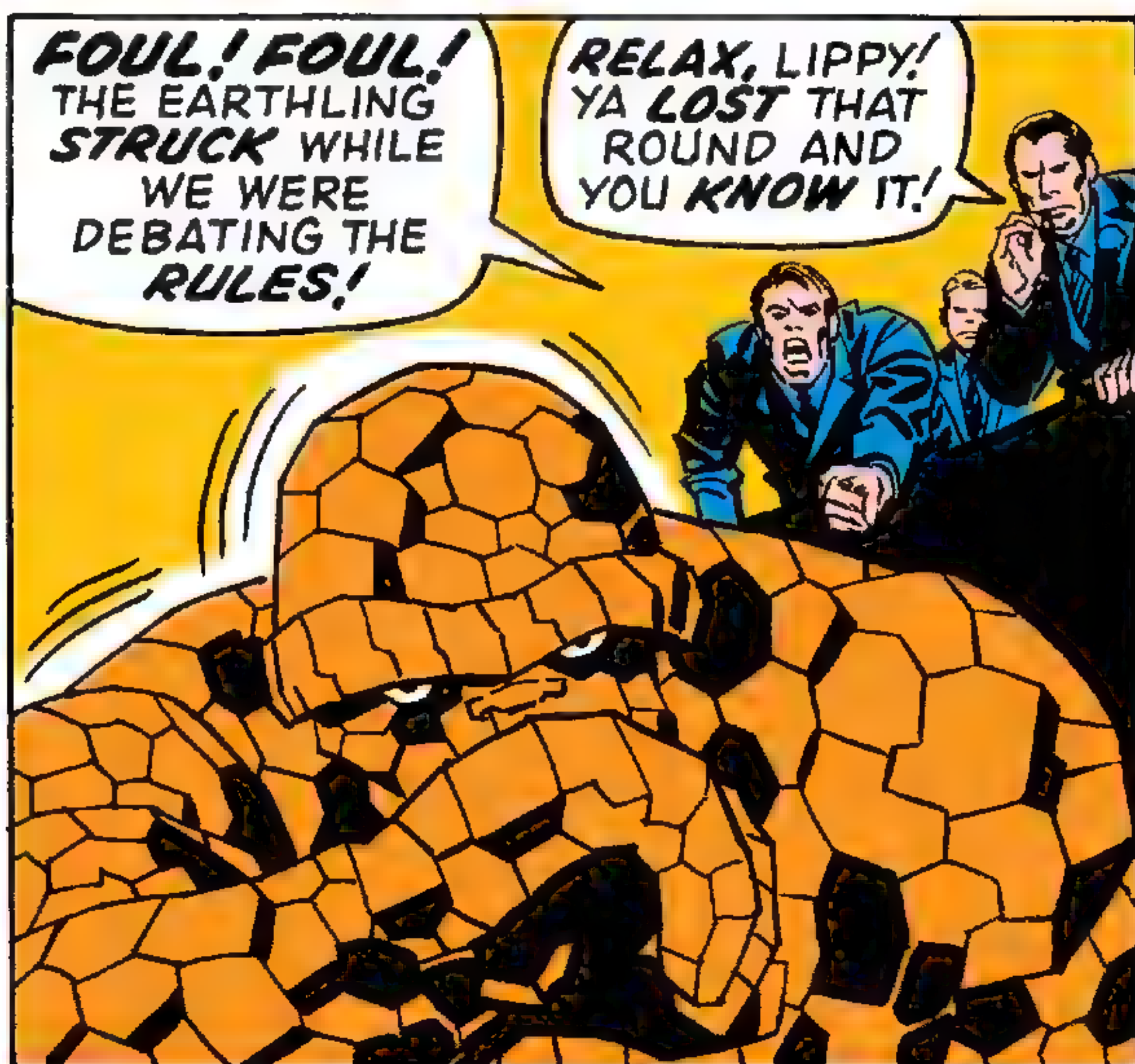
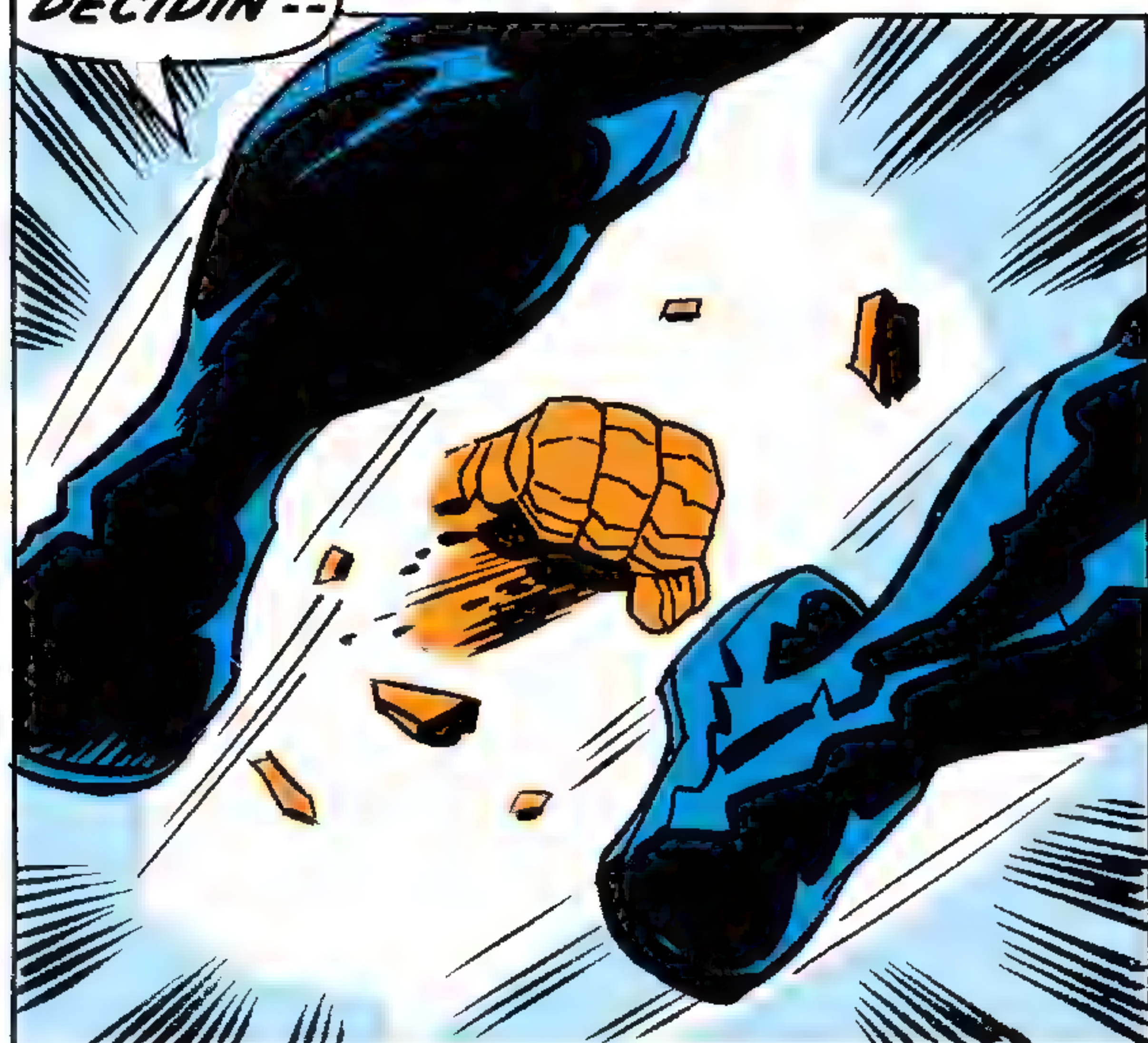
HEY! IT'S NO FAIR! THE
THING WASN'T BEATEN BY
TORGO--HE EXPLODED THE
BOMB HIMSELF!

THAT'S GOT
NOTHIN' TO DO
WITH IT! GIT
'IM, TORGO!
FINISH
'IM OFF!

WHAT
DO THE
RULES
SAY
ABOUT
THIS?

I DON'T
KNOW!
IT
ISN'T
CLEAR!

WELL,
WHILE
YER ALL
DECIDIN'--



FOUL! FOUL!
THE EARTHLING
STRUCK WHILE
WE WERE
DEBATING THE
RULES!

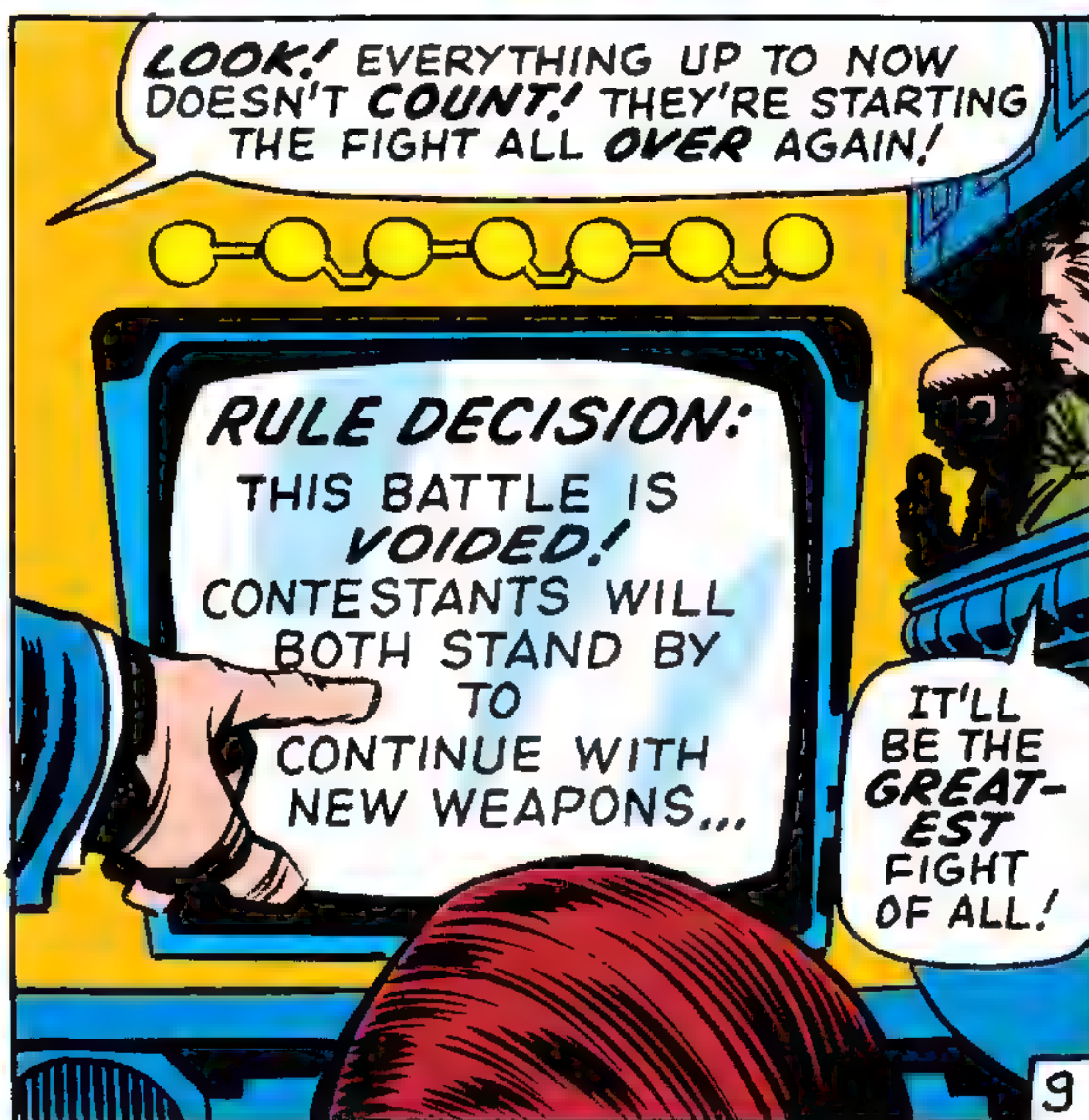
RELAX, LIPPY!
YA LOST THAT
ROUND AND
YOU KNOW IT!



I TOLD YA NOT TO PUT
YOUR TERRITORY
AGAINST MINE!

THE GAME'S NOT OVER
YET, BARKER--
REMEMBER
THAT!

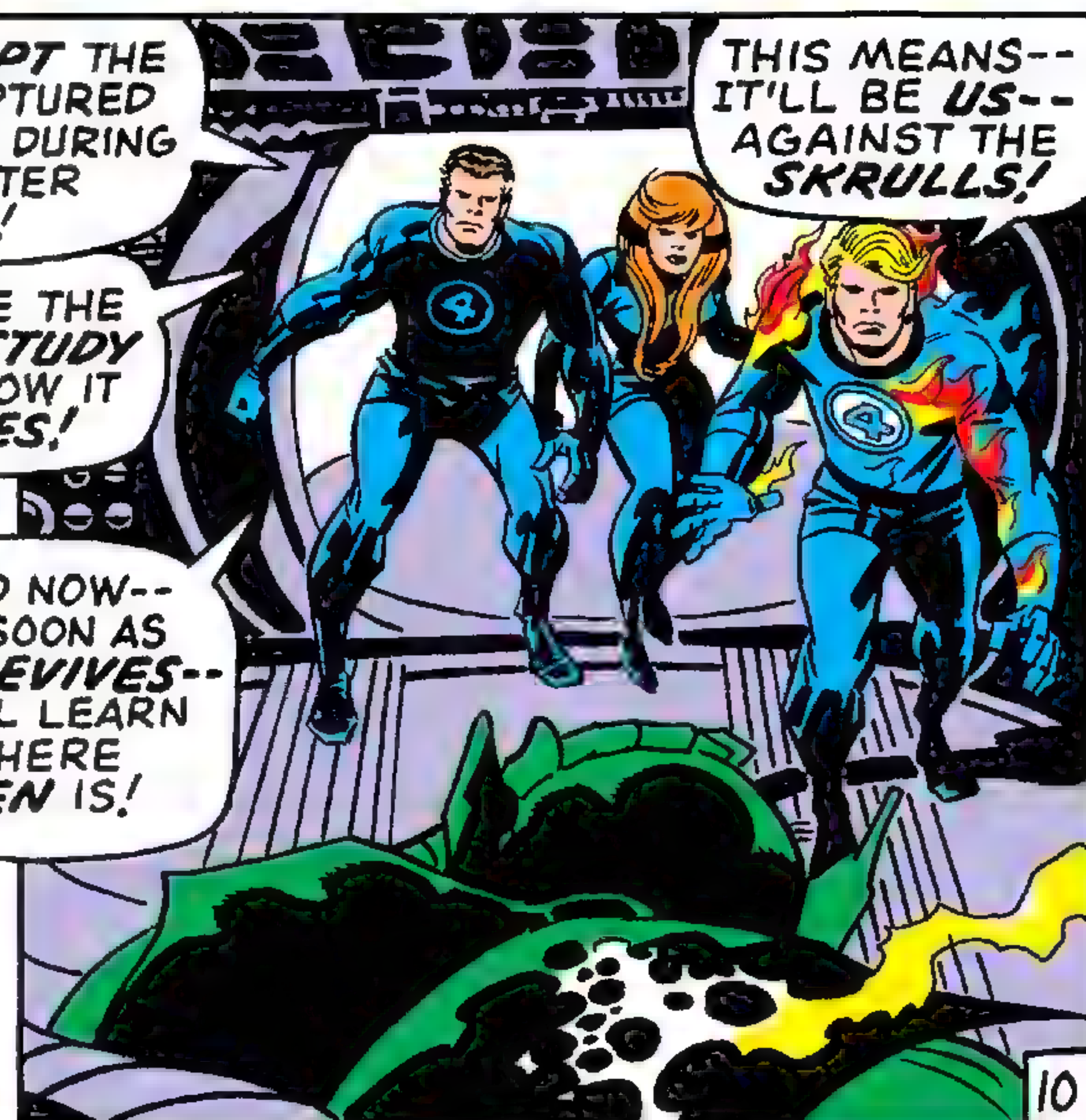
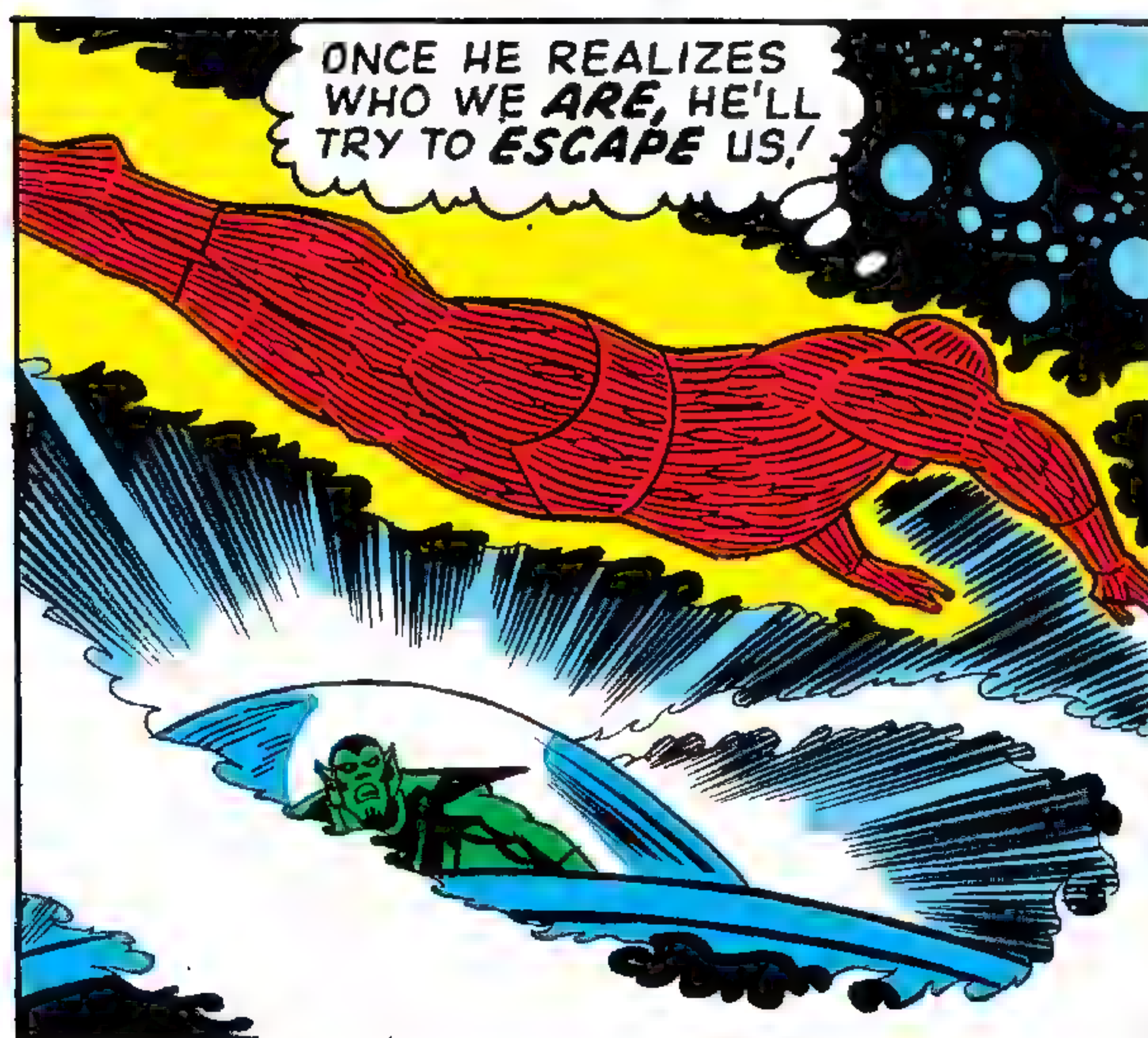
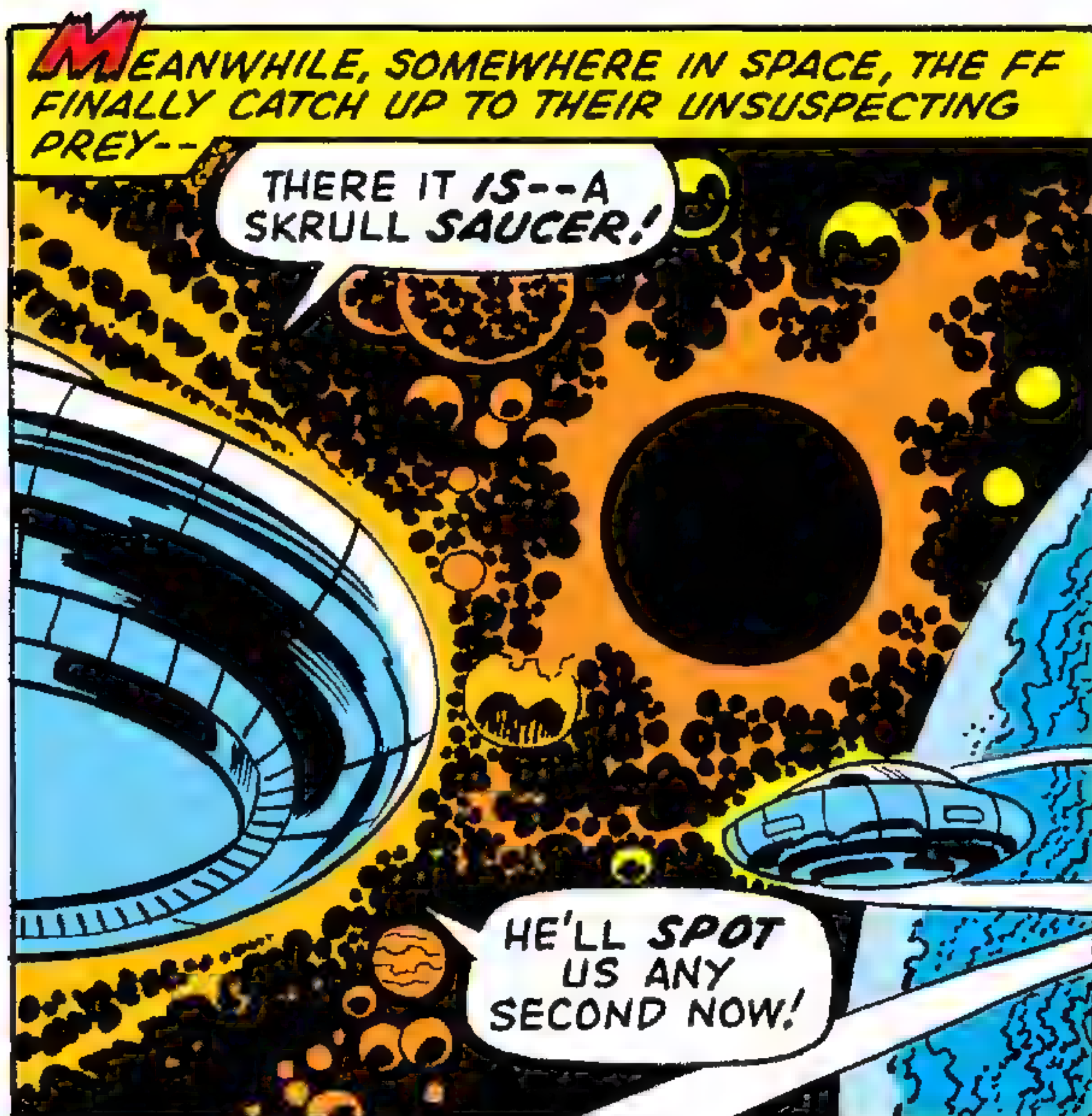
FROM WHAT THE
SLAVER TOLD ME,
I KNEW THE
EARTHLING
COULDN'T
LOSE!

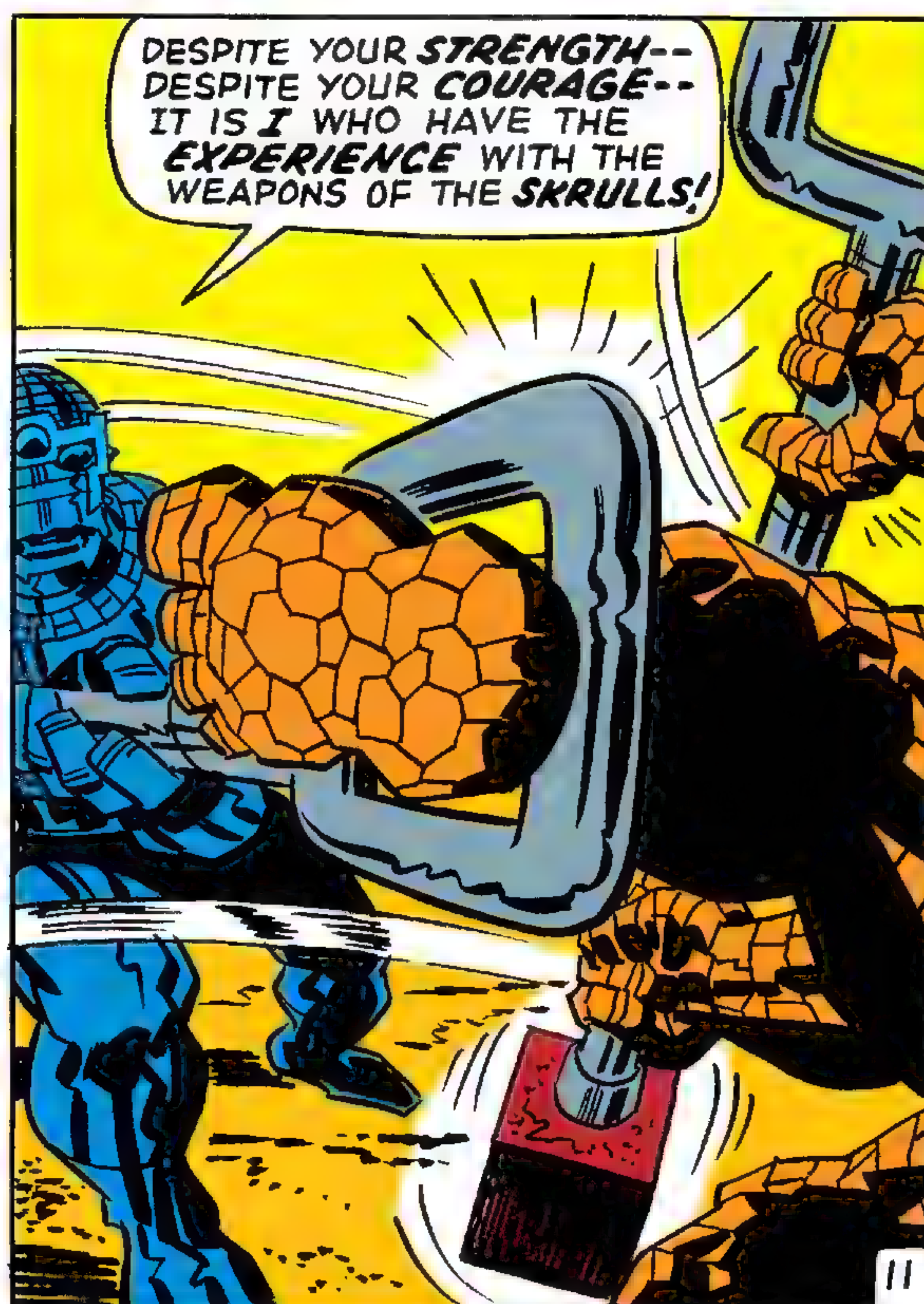
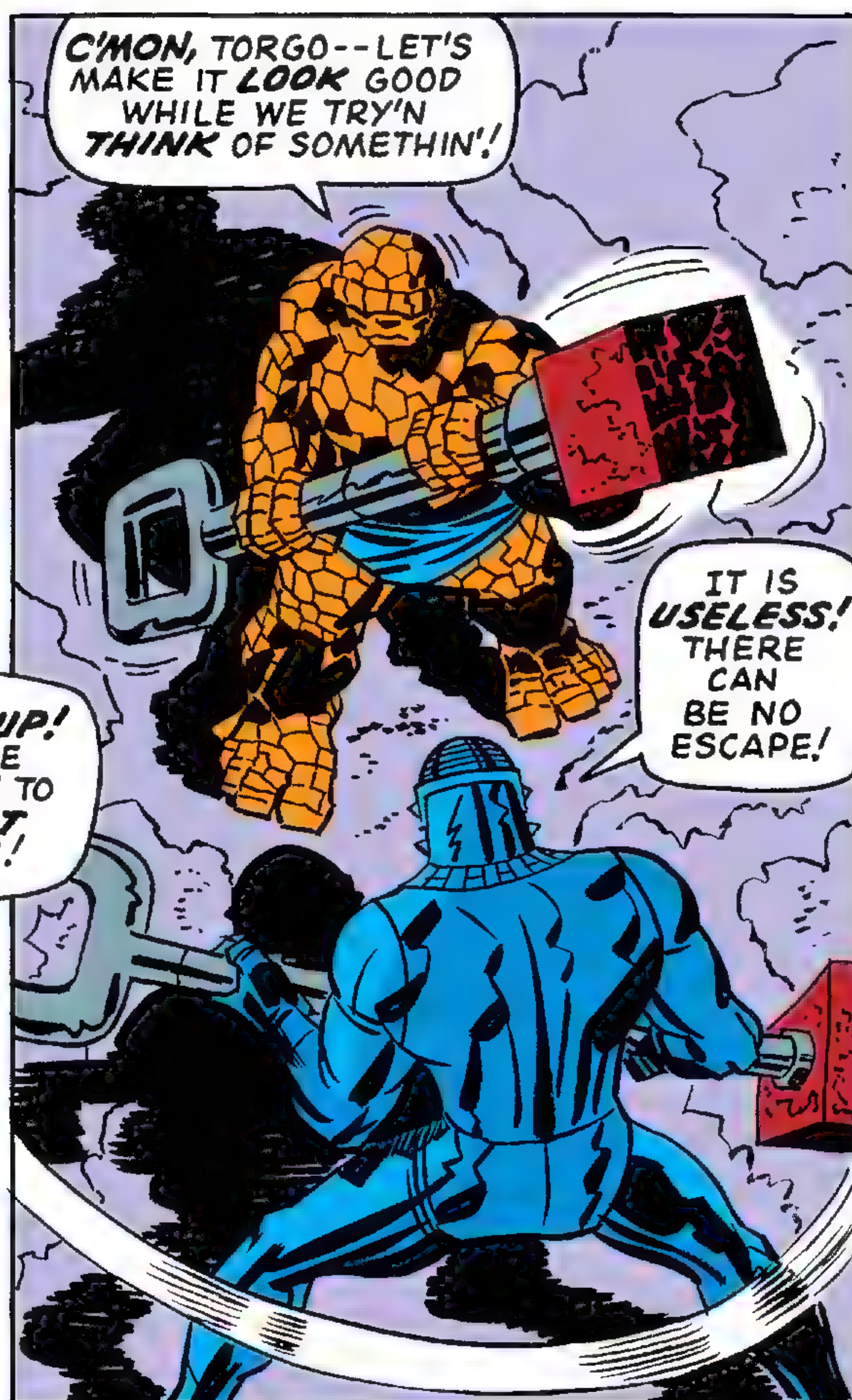


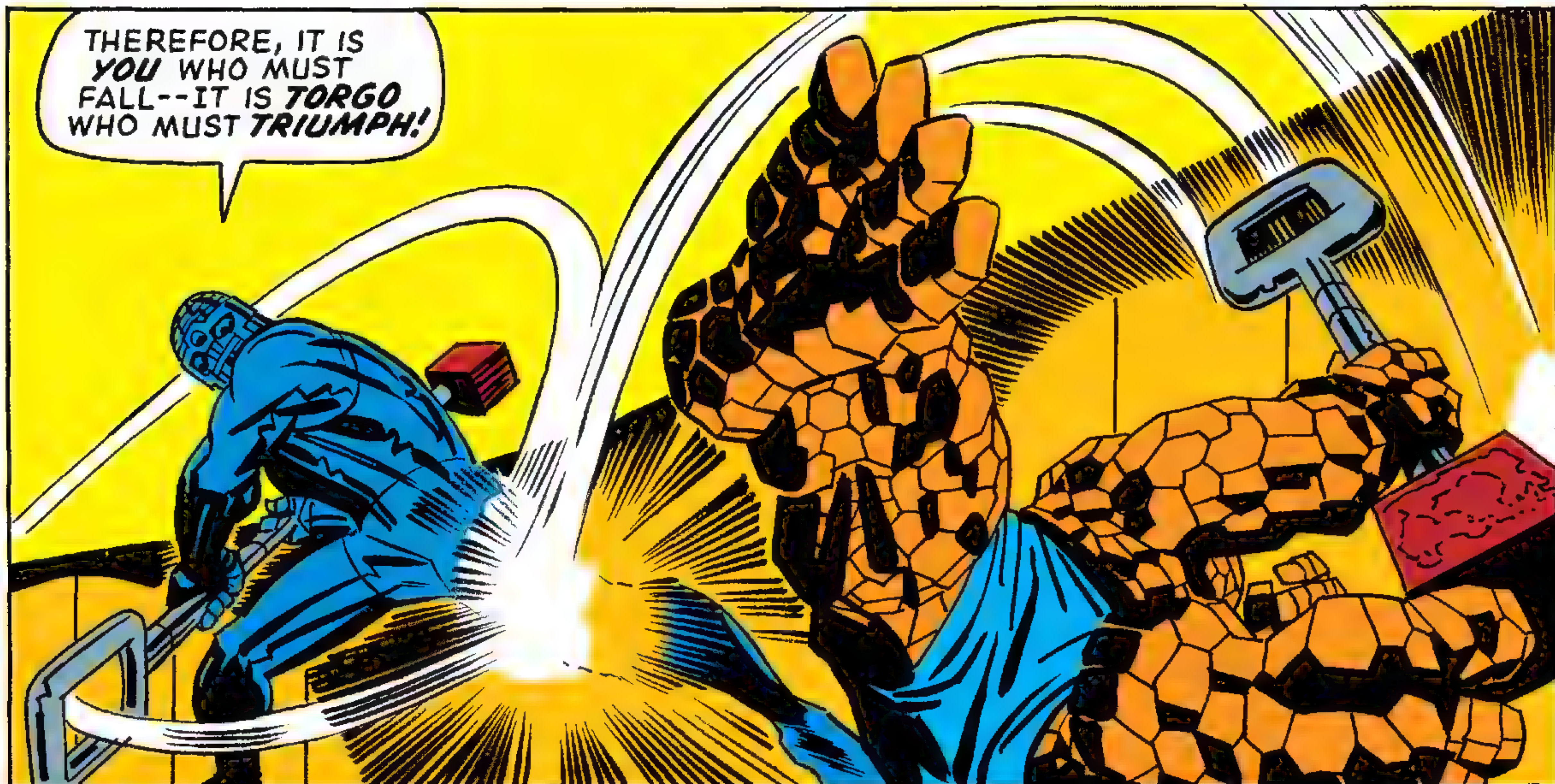
LOOK! EVERYTHING UP TO NOW
DOESN'T COUNT! THEY'RE STARTING
THE FIGHT ALL OVER AGAIN!

RULE DECISION:
THIS BATTLE IS
VOIDED!
CONTESTANTS WILL
BOTH STAND BY
TO
CONTINUE WITH
NEW WEAPONS...

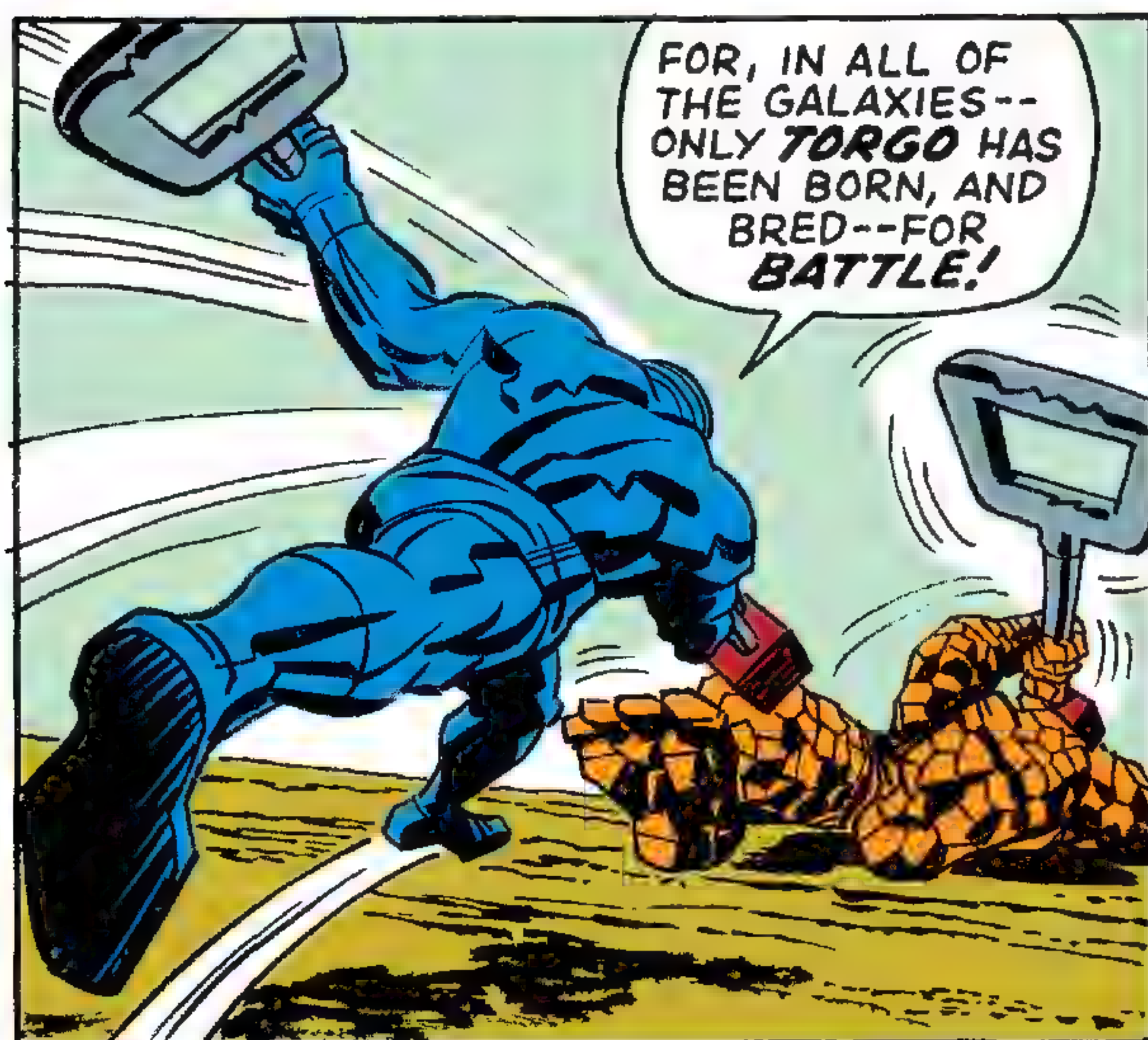
IT'LL
BE THE
GREATEST
FIGHT
OF ALL!



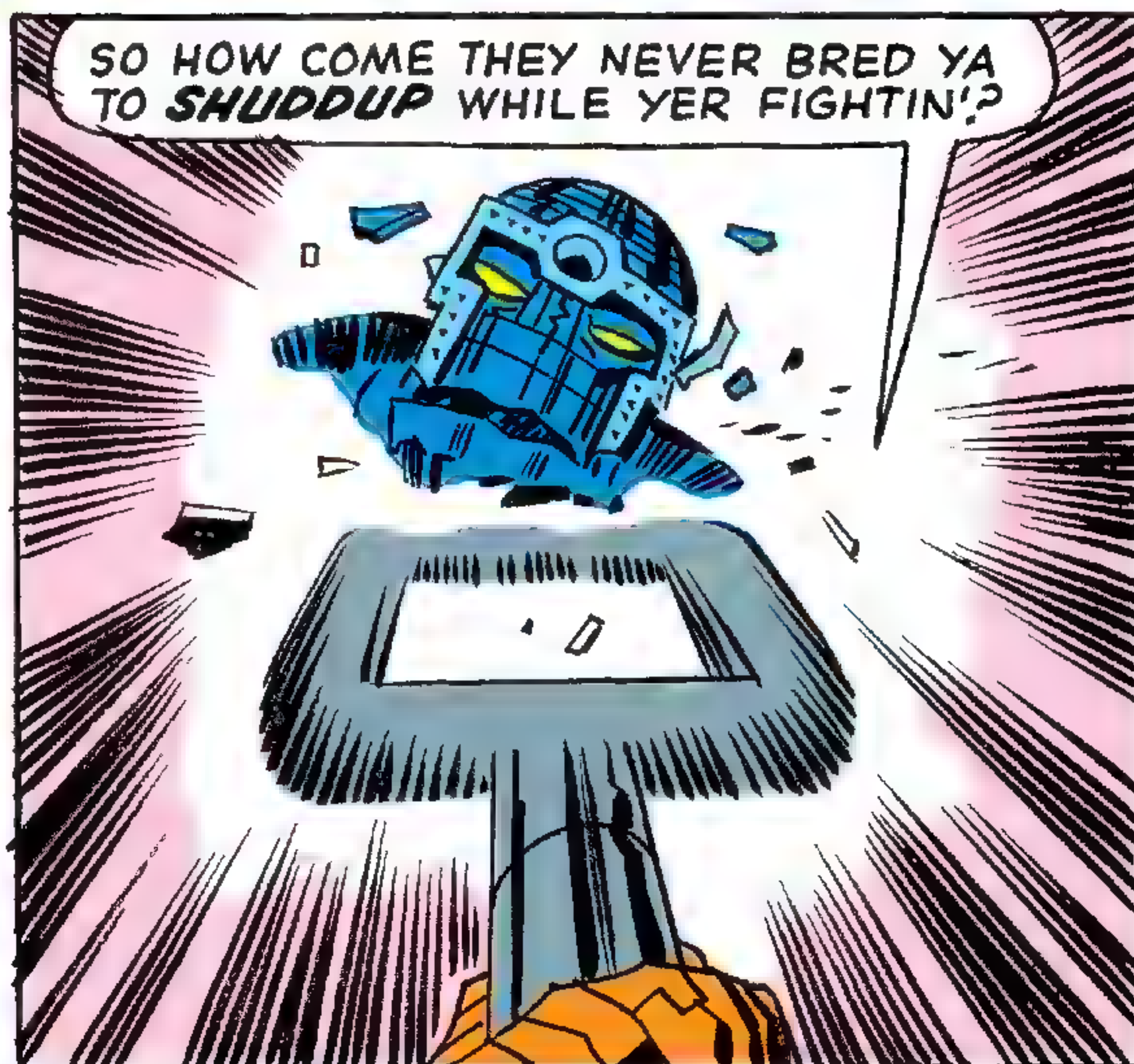




THEREFORE, IT IS
YOU WHO MUST
FALL--IT IS **TORGO**
WHO MUST **TRIUMPH!**



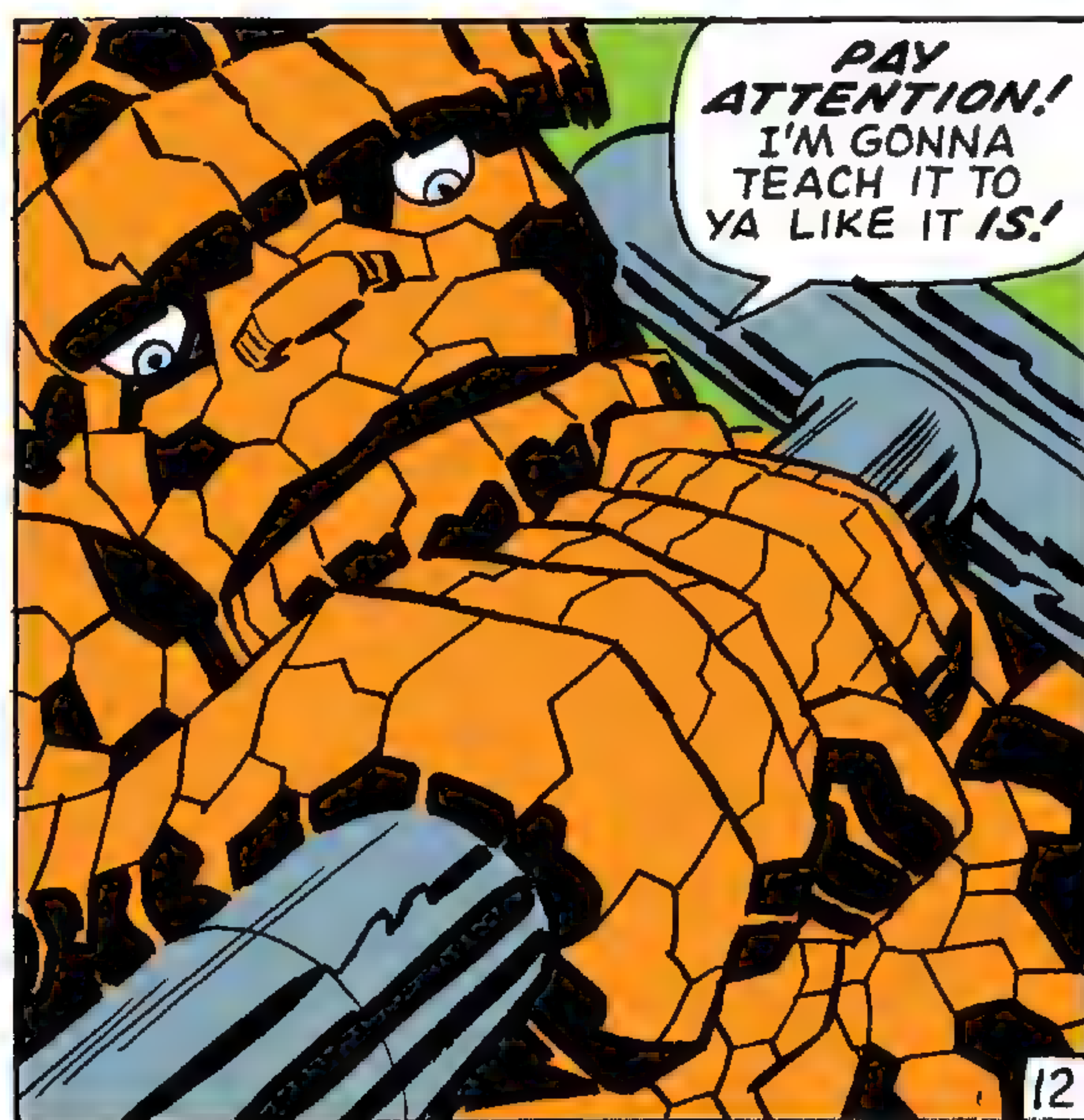
FOR, IN ALL OF
THE GALAXIES--
ONLY **TORGO** HAS
BEEN BORN, AND
BRED--FOR
BATTLE!



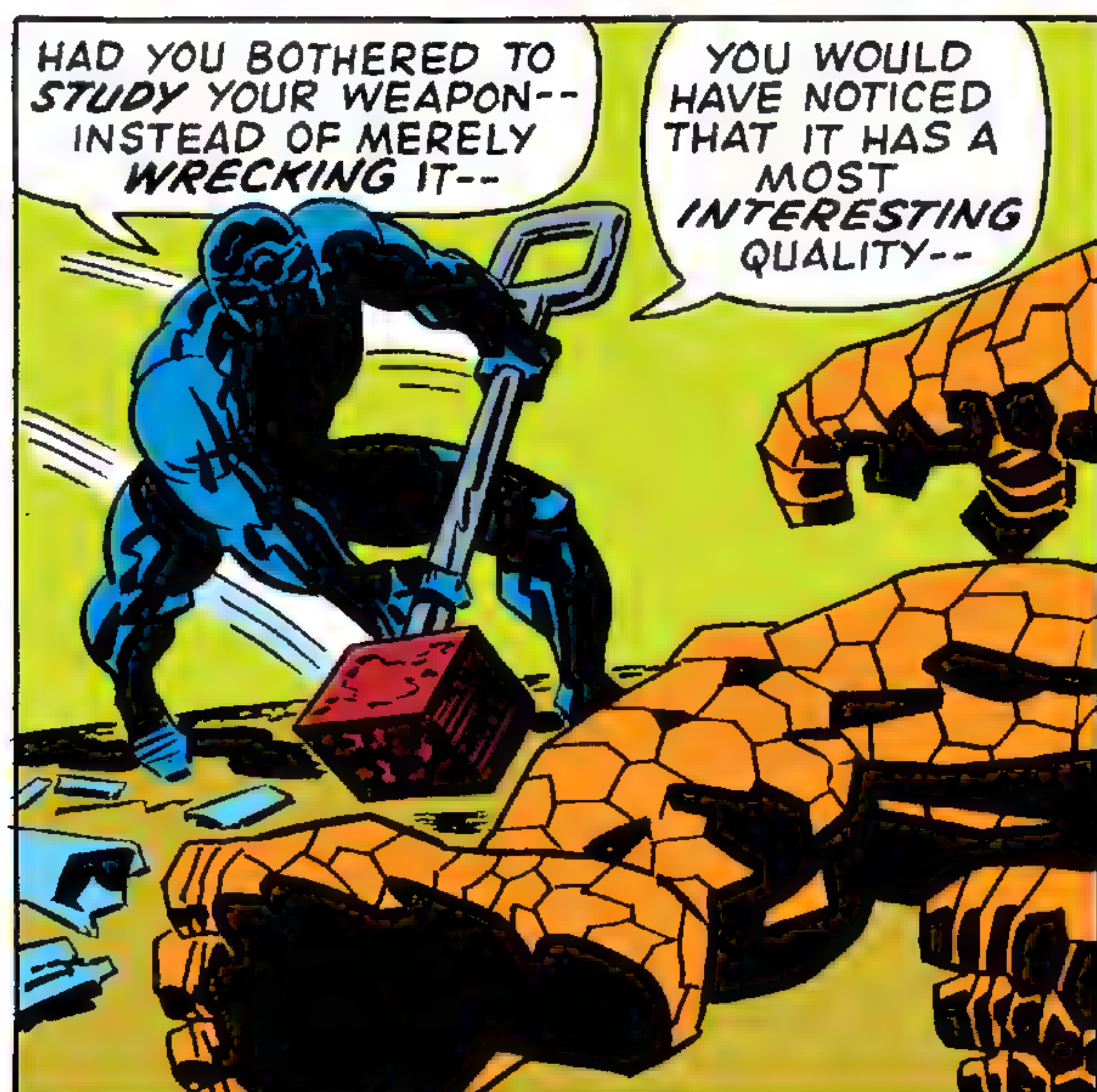
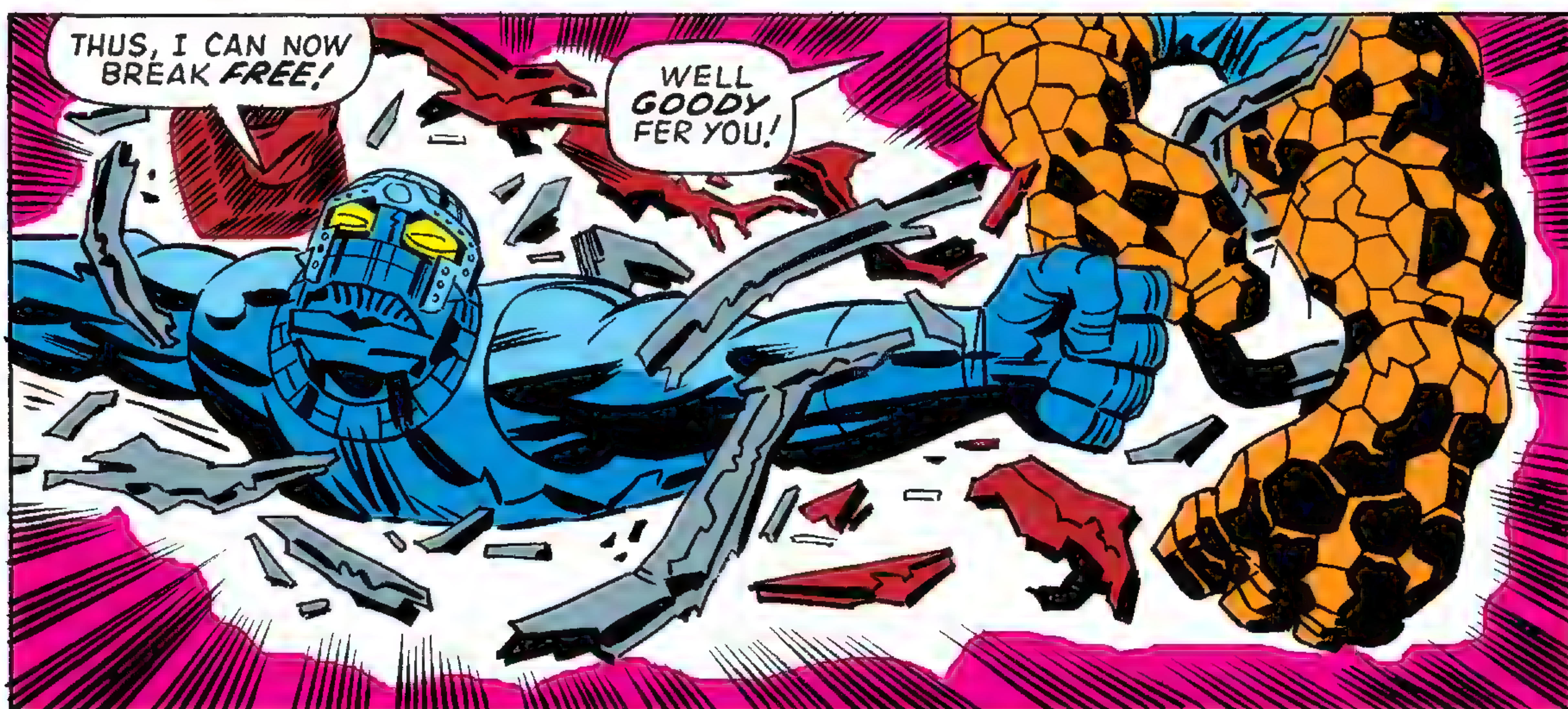
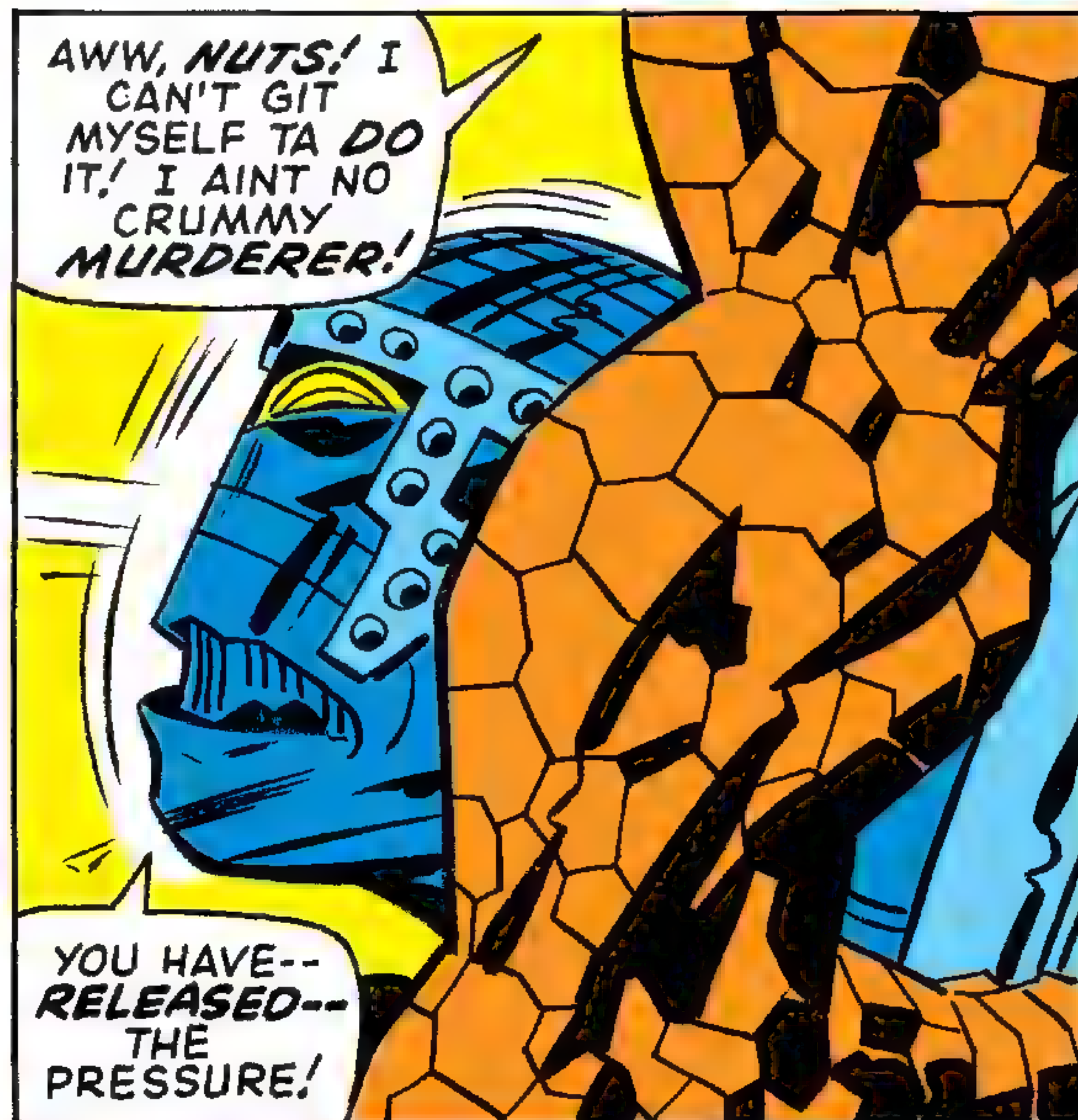
SO HOW COME THEY NEVER BRED YA
TO **SHUDDUP** WHILE YER FIGHTIN'?

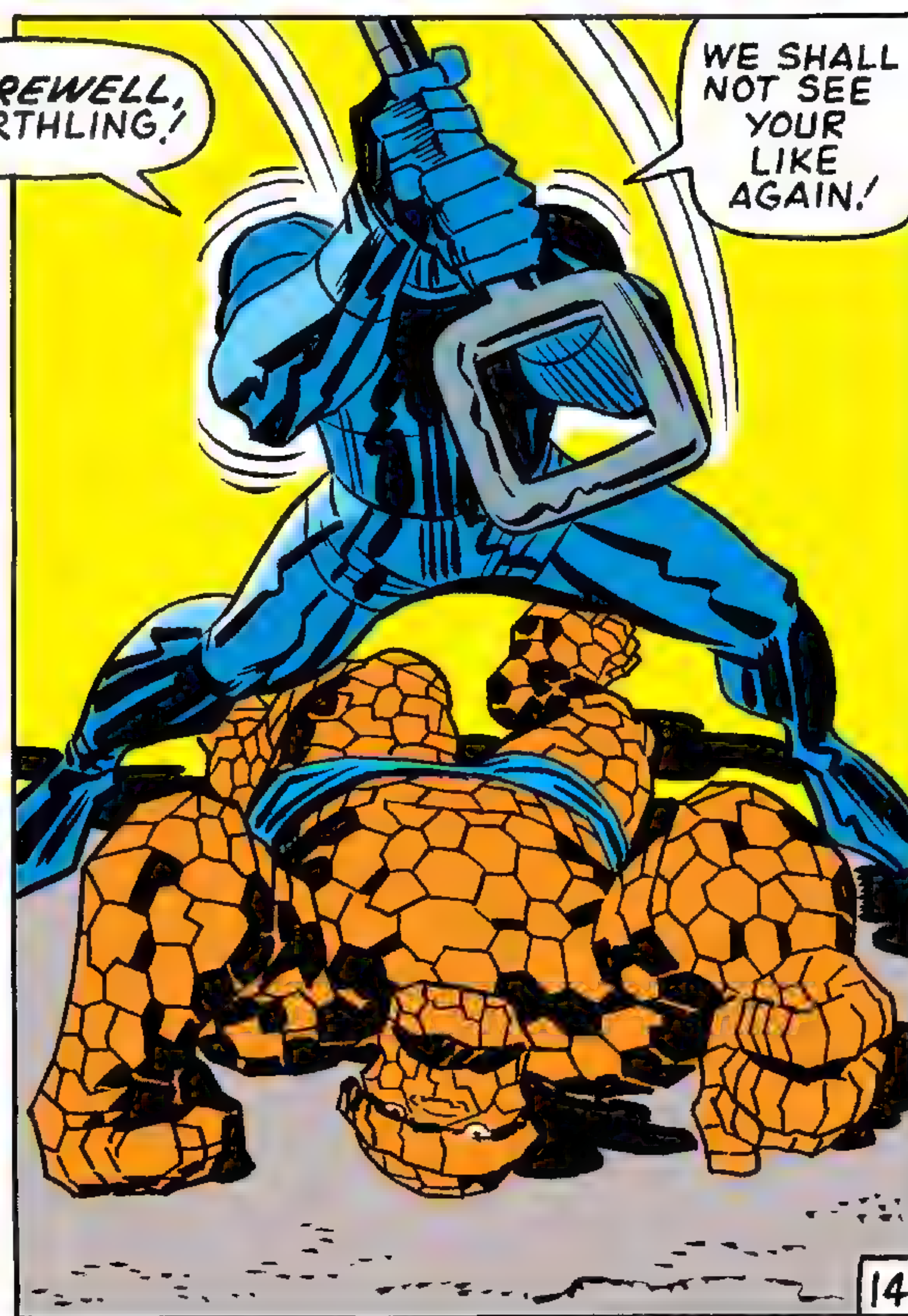
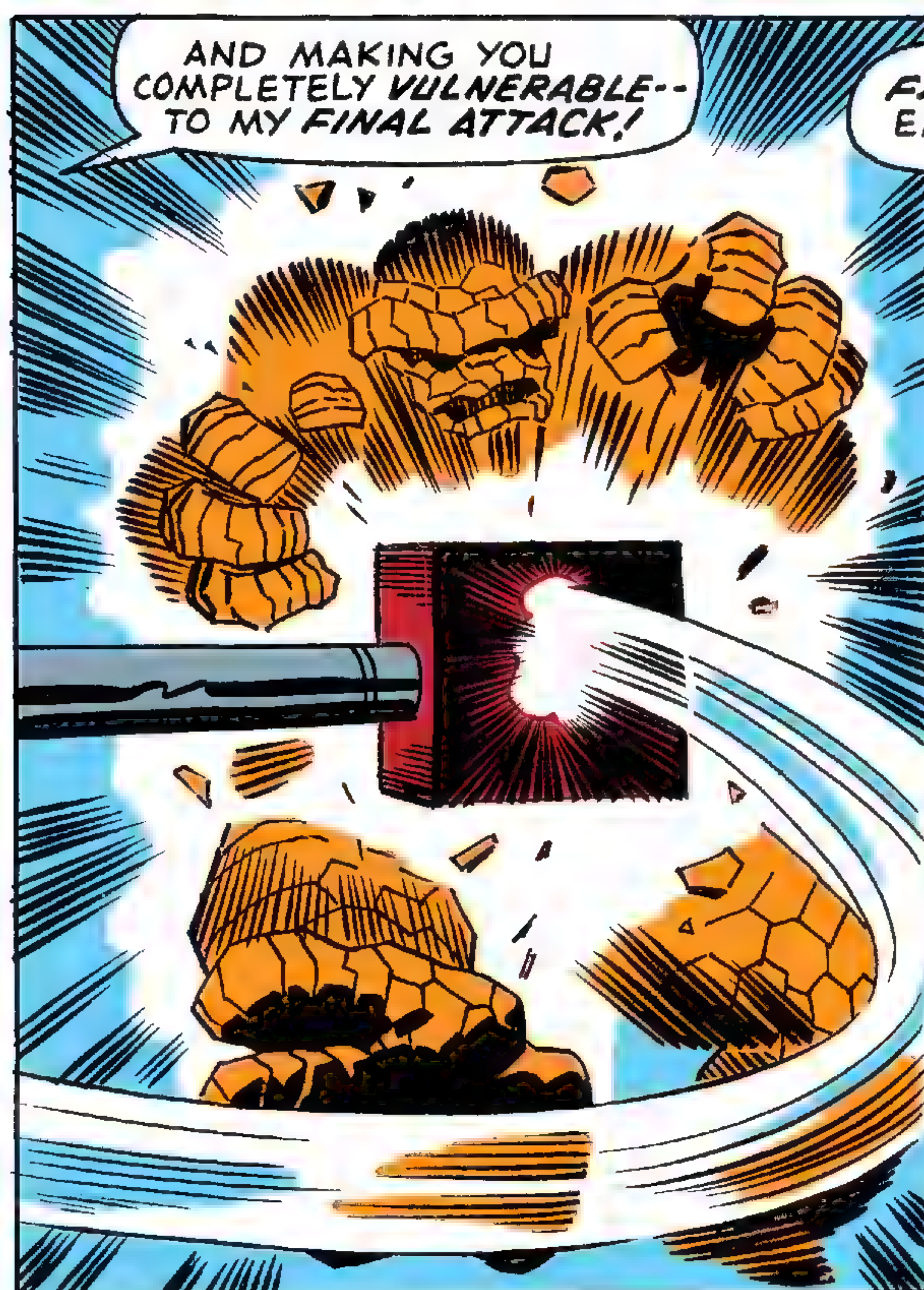
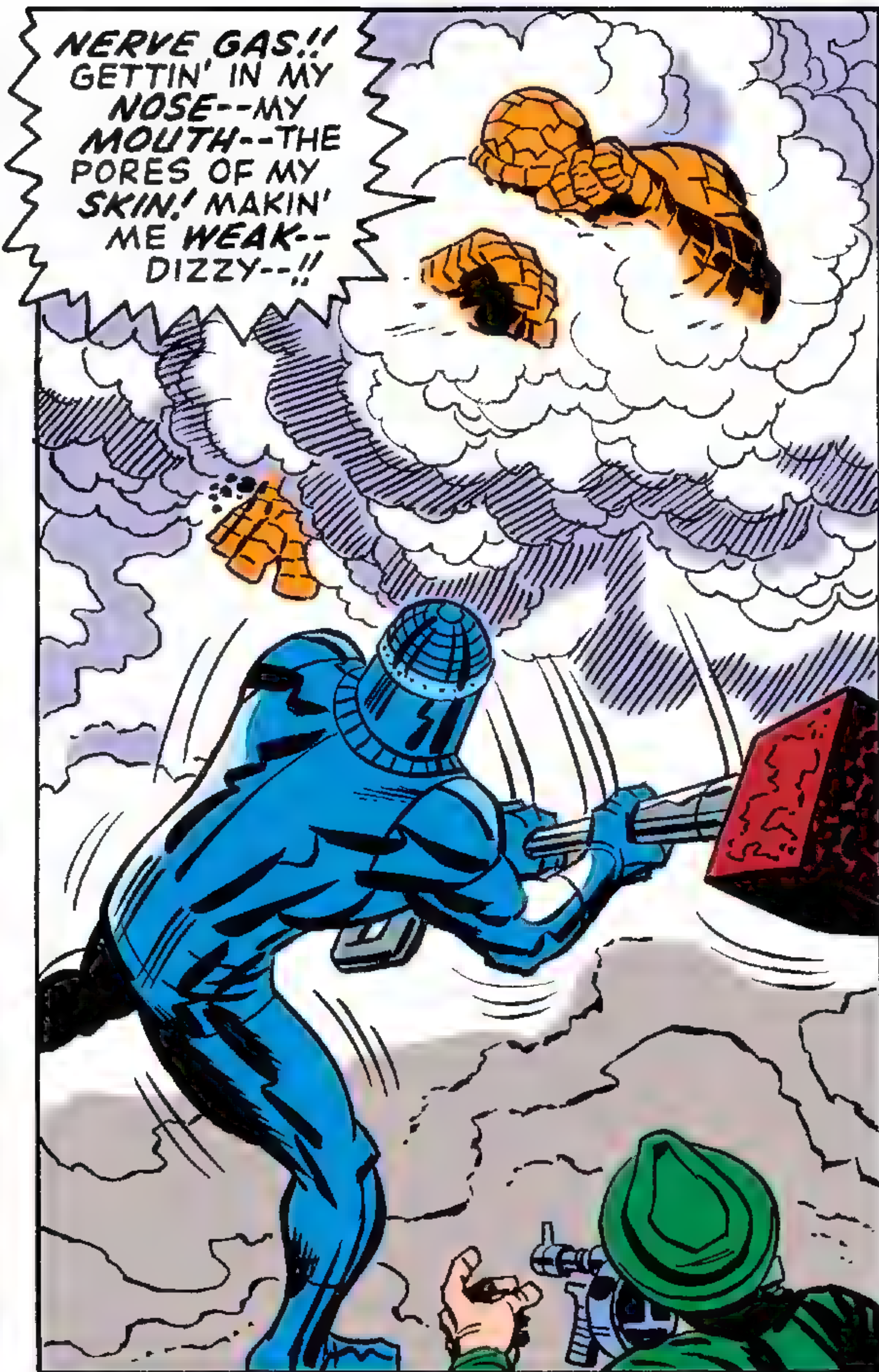
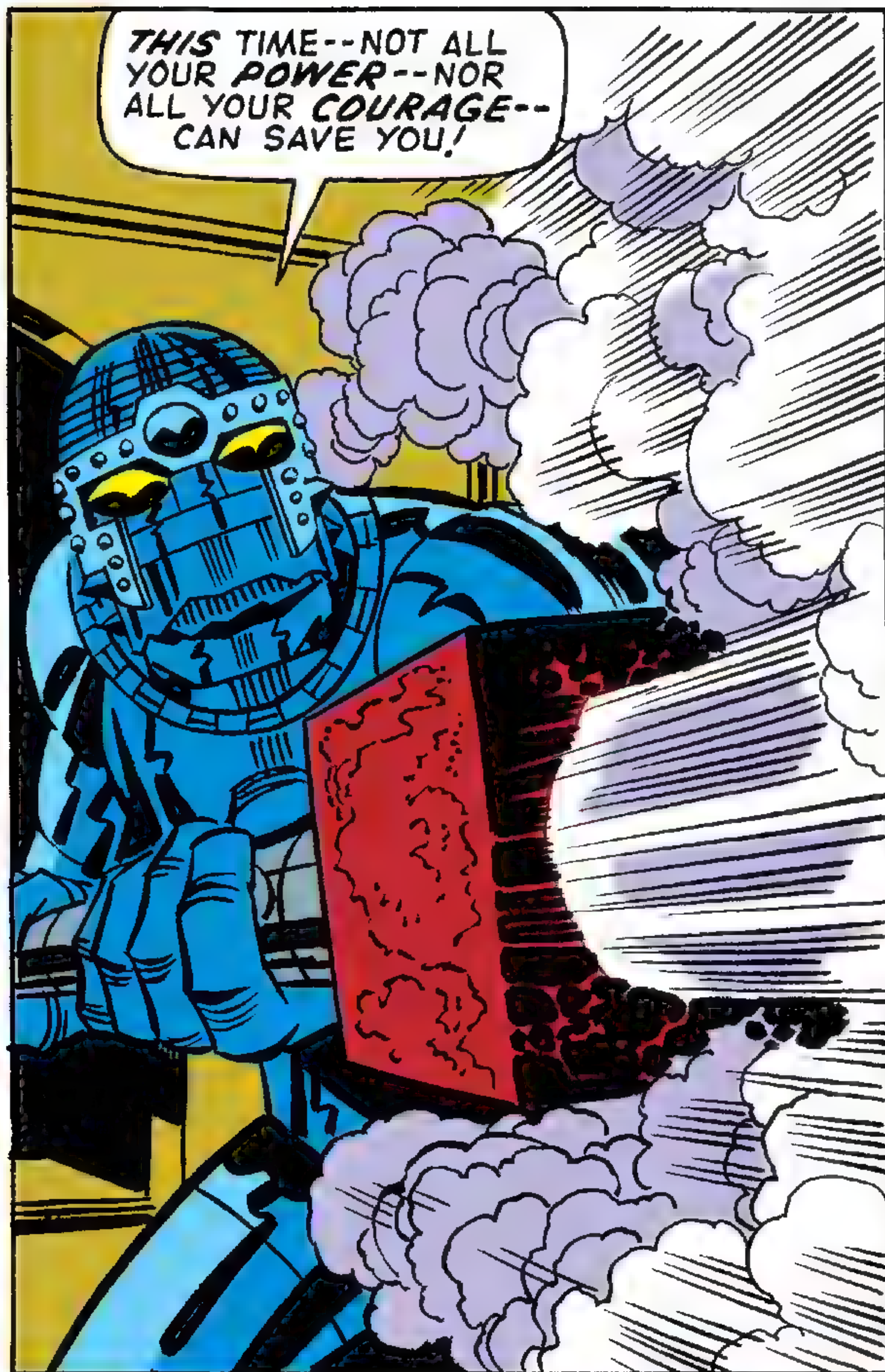


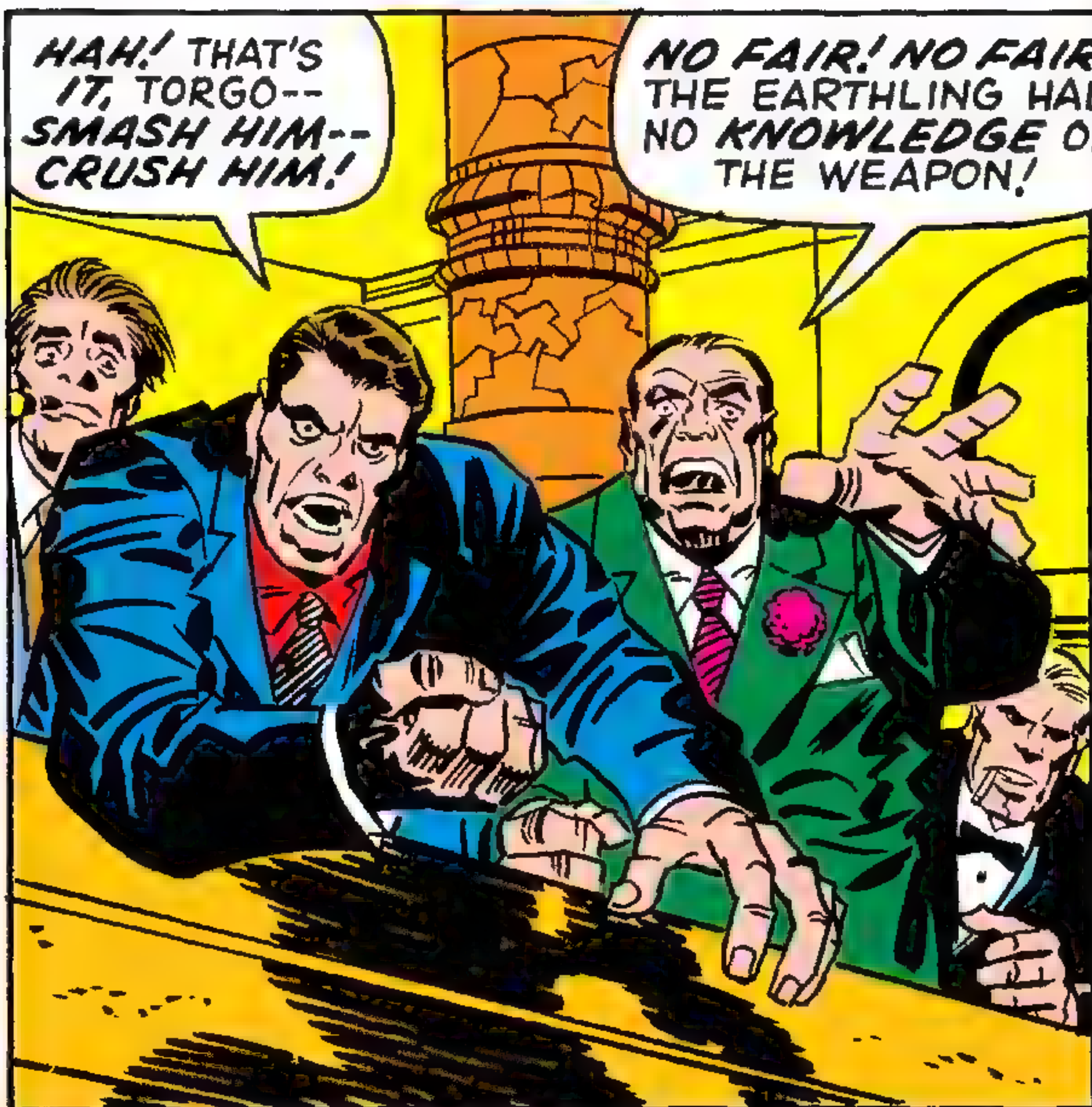
AND SOMEONE SHOULDA TIPPED
YA OFF--JUST 'CAUSE A GUY IS
DOWN--DON'T MEAN HE'S GOTTA
BE **OUT!**



**PAY
ATTENTION!**
I'M GONNA
TEACH IT TO
YA LIKE IT IS!







HAH! THAT'S IT, TORG--
SMASH HIM--
CRUSH HIM!

NO FAIR! NO FAIR!
THE EARTHLING HAD
NO KNOWLEDGE OF
THE WEAPON!



THAT'S HIS TOUGH LUCK,
BARKER--AND YOURS! IT'S
ALL PART OF THE GAME!
HE SHOULD'A
FIGGERED IT OUT!

NO! HE'S BEEN
FOULED! IT
DOESN'T COUNT!



IT WON'T WORK,
BARKER! YOU'RE TOO
LATE! NOTHIN'
CAN SAVE YOUR
BEATEN THING
ANY MORE!

TAKE IT EASY, BARKER! YOU
KNOW THE RULES! NOBODY
GITS ROUGH TILL THE
GAME'S OVER!

YOU WON'T
GET AWAY
WITH THIS!
NOBODY
BEATS
BOSS
BARKER!



MEANWHILE, AT BARKER'S APARTMENT,
ONE OF HIS HENCHMEN PHONES FOR THE
RESULT OF THE GAME--

WHAT'S THAT? THE
WINNER AINT' BEEN
ANNOUNCED YET?

IT NEVER
TOOK
THIS LONG
BEFORE!



PUT DOWN THE PHONE,
MISTER! IF YOU WANT TO
KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING
AT THE ARENA, WE'LL GO
THERE PERSONALLY AND
FIND OUT!

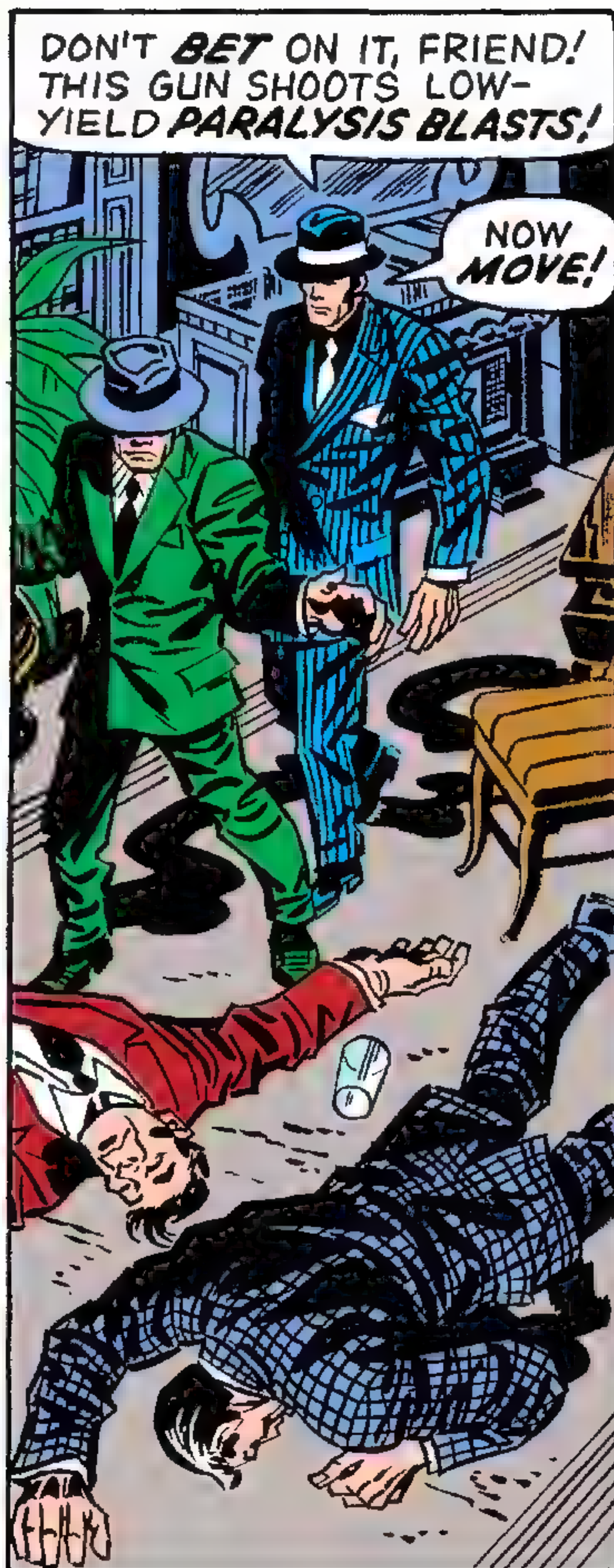
WHO'RE YOU??
YOU AINT ONE
OF BARKER'S
BOYS!



I'M WITH **REED RICHARDS'** MOB--WE'RE FROM OUT OF TOWN-- BUT WE'RE **MUSCLIN'** IN ON THIS TERRITORY!

NOW START **WALKING!** YOU'RE TAKING ME TO THE **ARENA!**

YOU'RE **LOCO!** YOU WON'T EVEN GET PAST THE BOYS **OUTSIDE!**



DON'T **BET** ON IT, FRIEND! THIS GUN SHOTS LOW-YIELD **PARALYSIS BLASTS!**

NOW **MOVE!**



THERE'S A **CAR** WAITING AT THE CURB! KEEP MUM AND GET **IN!**

I DON'T **GET** IT! HOW COME I NEVER **HEARD** OF YA BEFORE? WHERE ARE YOU **FROM?**



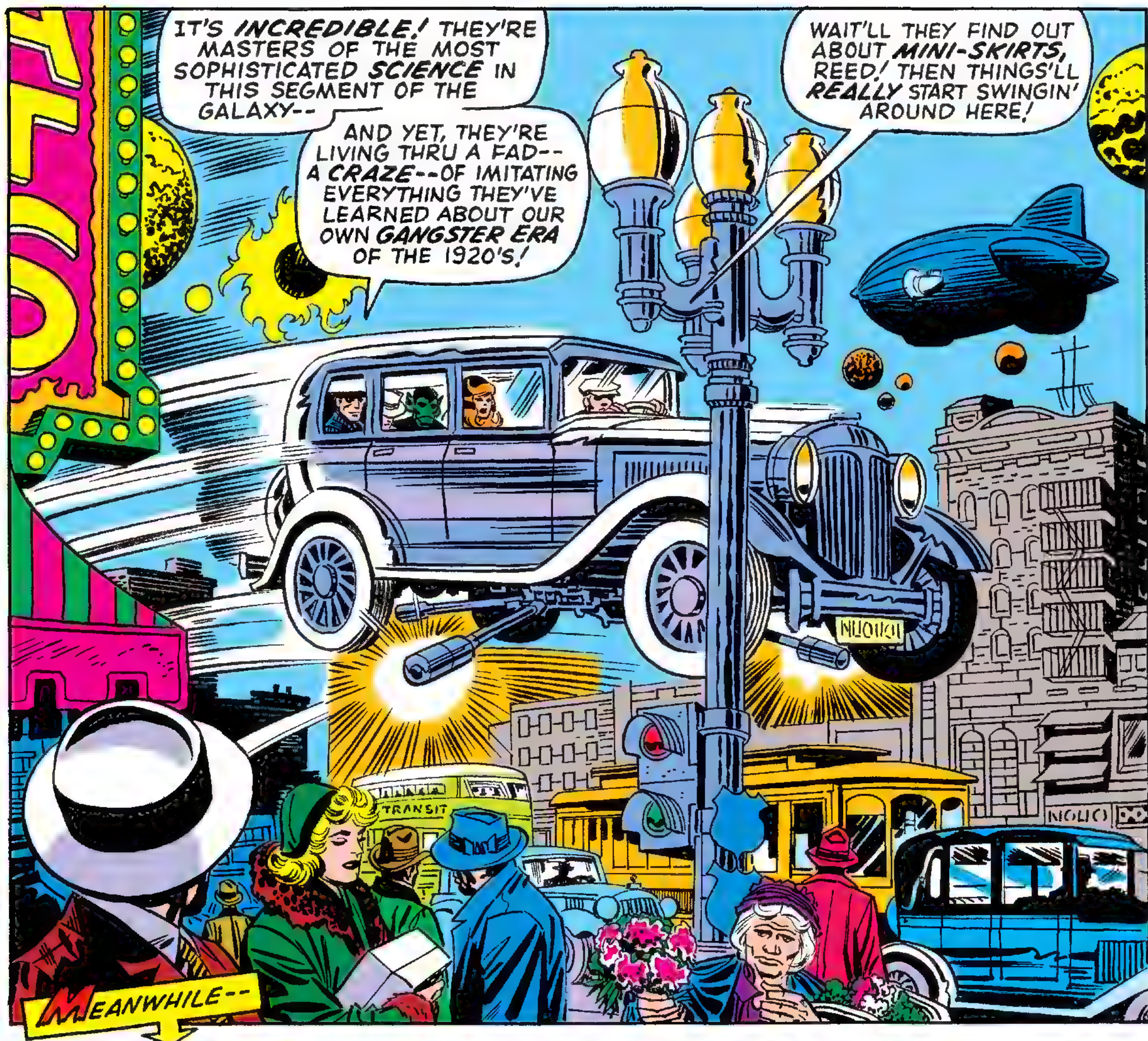
SINCE YOU **ASKED,** IT'S JUST A LITTLE PLACE CALLED **EARTH!**

OKAY, JOHNNY--WE'VE GOT OUR **HOSTAGE**--AND WE'VE GOT OUR **GUIDE!** SO WHAT ARE YOU **WAITING** FOR?

IF ANYONE **STOPS** US, WE CAN JUST TELL 'EM WE'RE **BONNIE AND CLYDE,** OUT FOR A **SPIN!**

KEEP YOUR **GUN** ON 'EM, CRY--I'LL GET US THERE IN **NO** TIME!

I JUST PRAY WE'RE NOT TOO **LATE**--TO SAVE **BEN GRIMM!**



IT'S **INCREDIBLE!** THEY'RE MASTERS OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED **SCIENCE** IN THIS SEGMENT OF THE GALAXY--

AND YET, THEY'RE LIVING THRU A FAD-- A **CRAZE**--OF IMITATING EVERYTHING THEY'VE LEARNED ABOUT OUR OWN **GANGSTER ERA** OF THE 1920'S!

WAIT'LL THEY FIND OUT ABOUT **MINI-SKIRTS**, REED! THEN THINGS'LL **REALLY** START SWINGIN' AROUND HERE!

MEANWHILE--



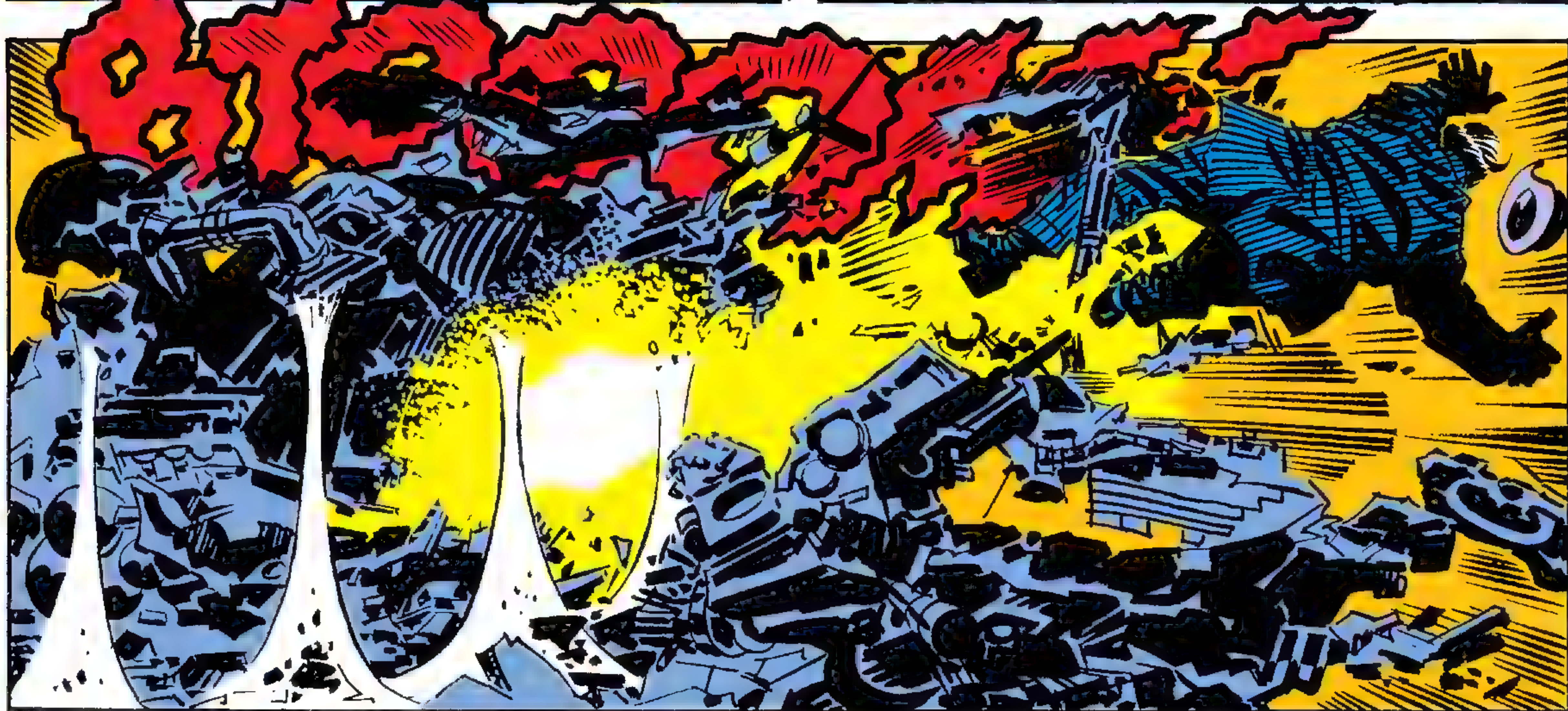
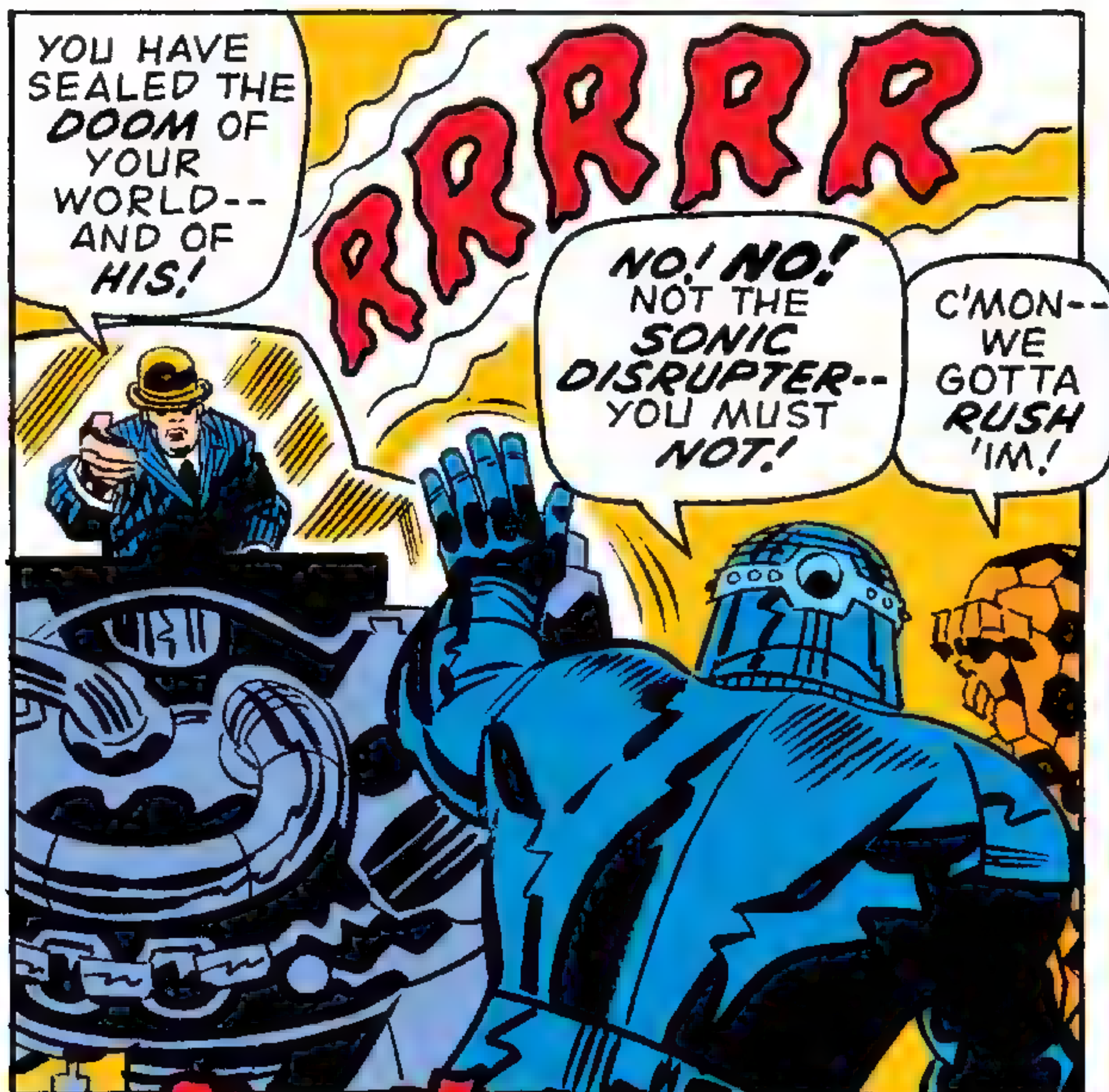
C'MON, TORGO-- LET 'IM HAVE IT! WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR?

FINISH HIM OFF, SLAVE--OR YOUR PLANET WILL DIE!

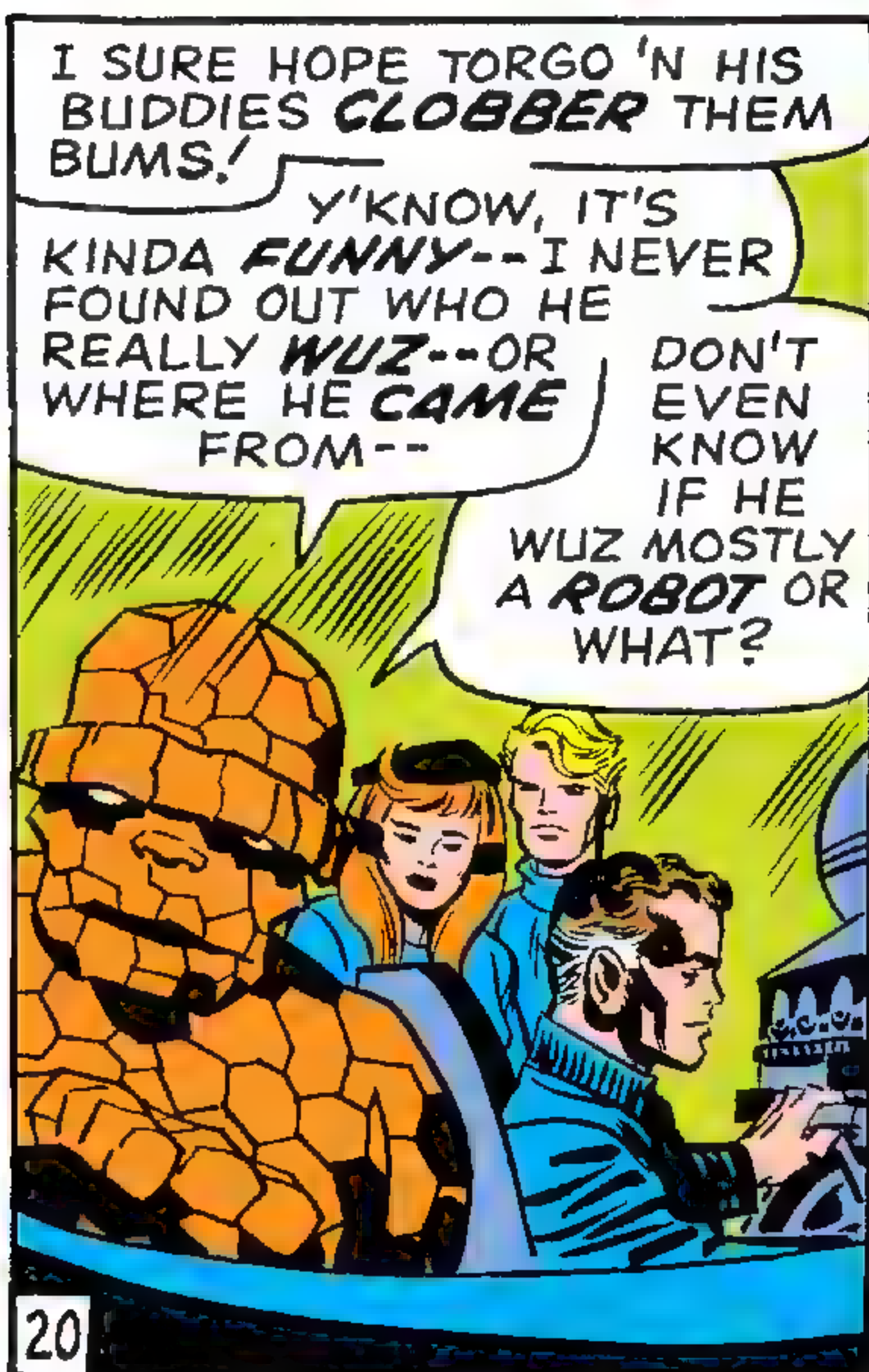
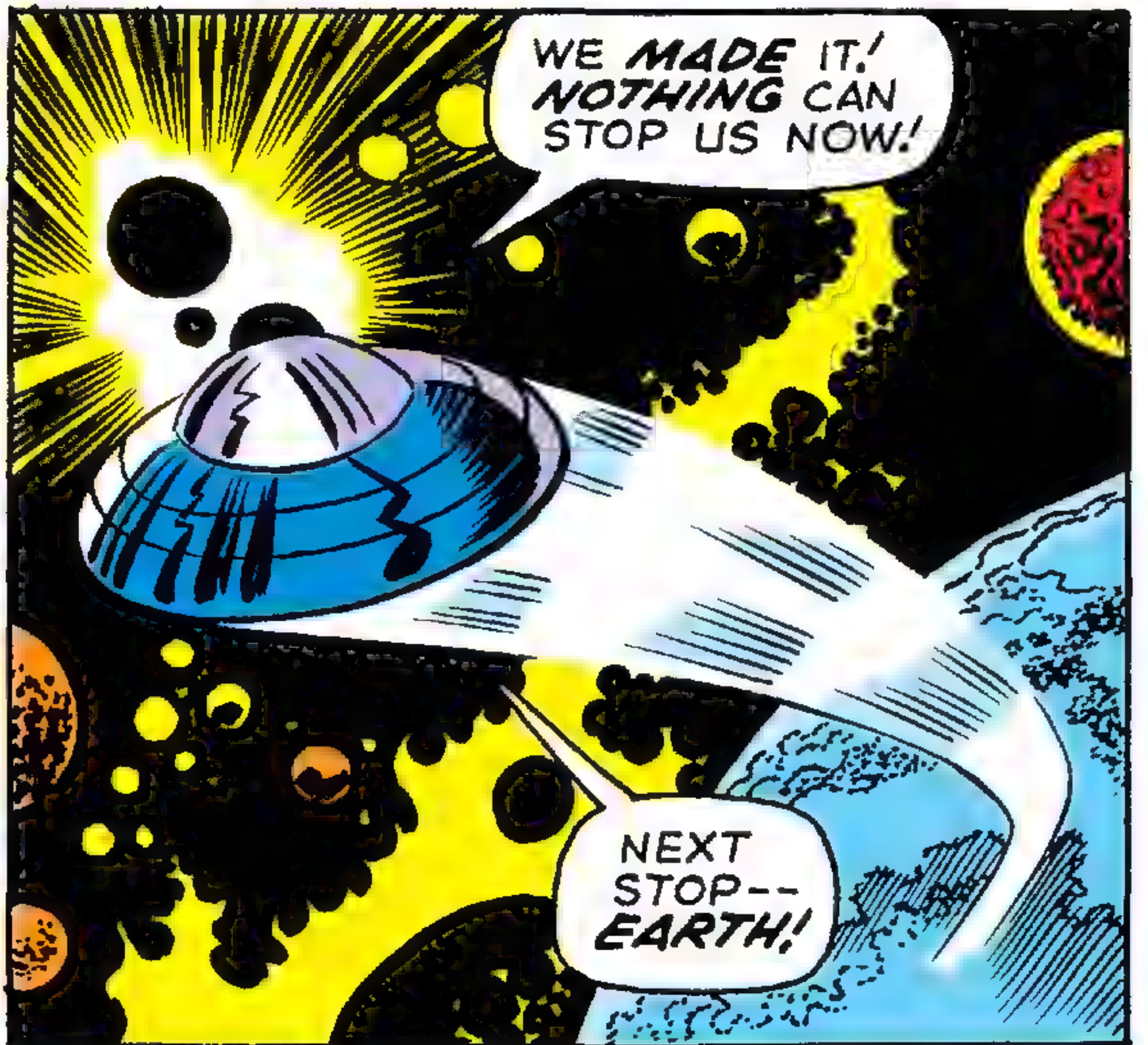
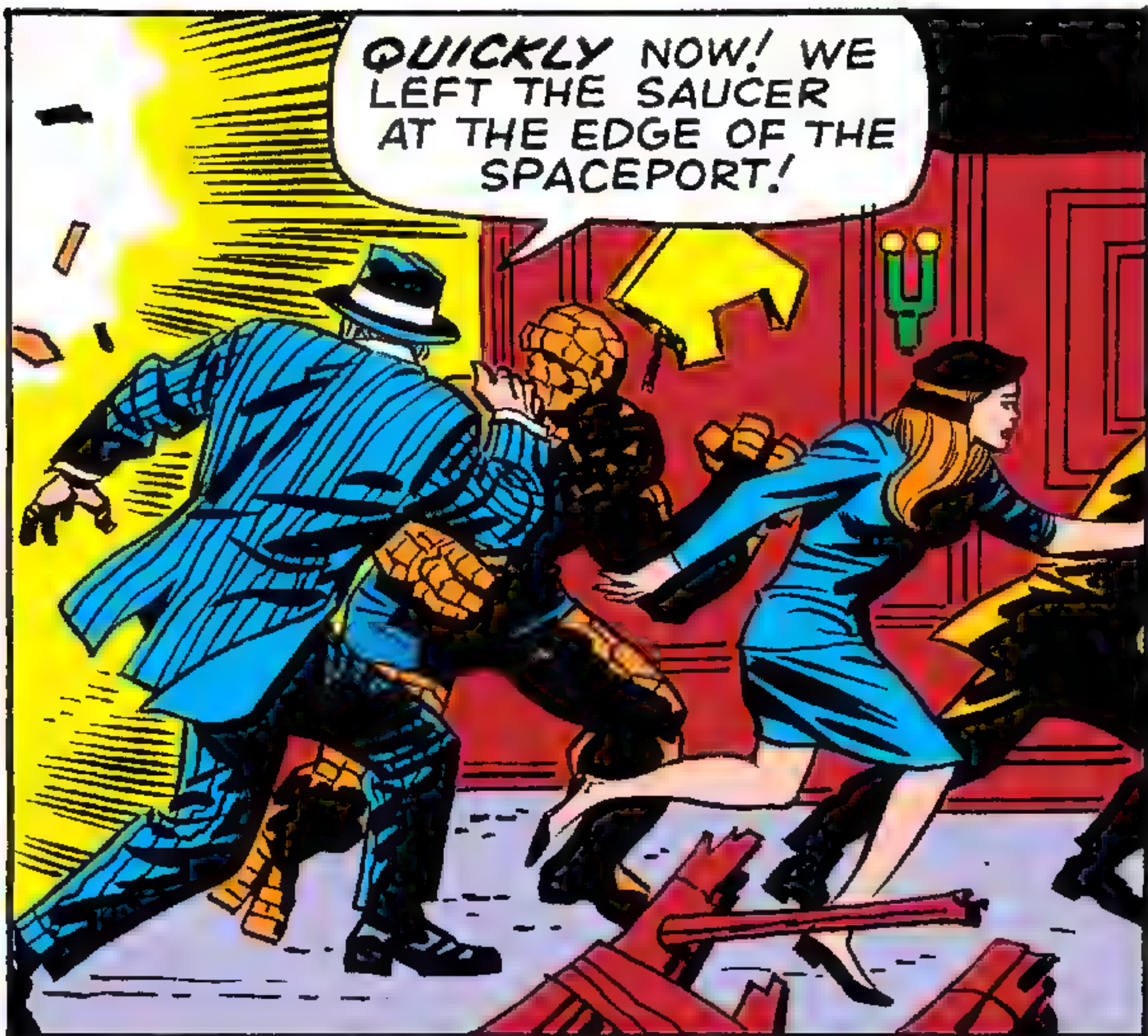


I CANNOT DO IT! I CANNOT!

HE COULD HAVE SLAIN ME BEFORE --BUT HE DID NOT! HOW CAN I MURDER ONE WHO HAS SHOWN ME **MERCY**?!!

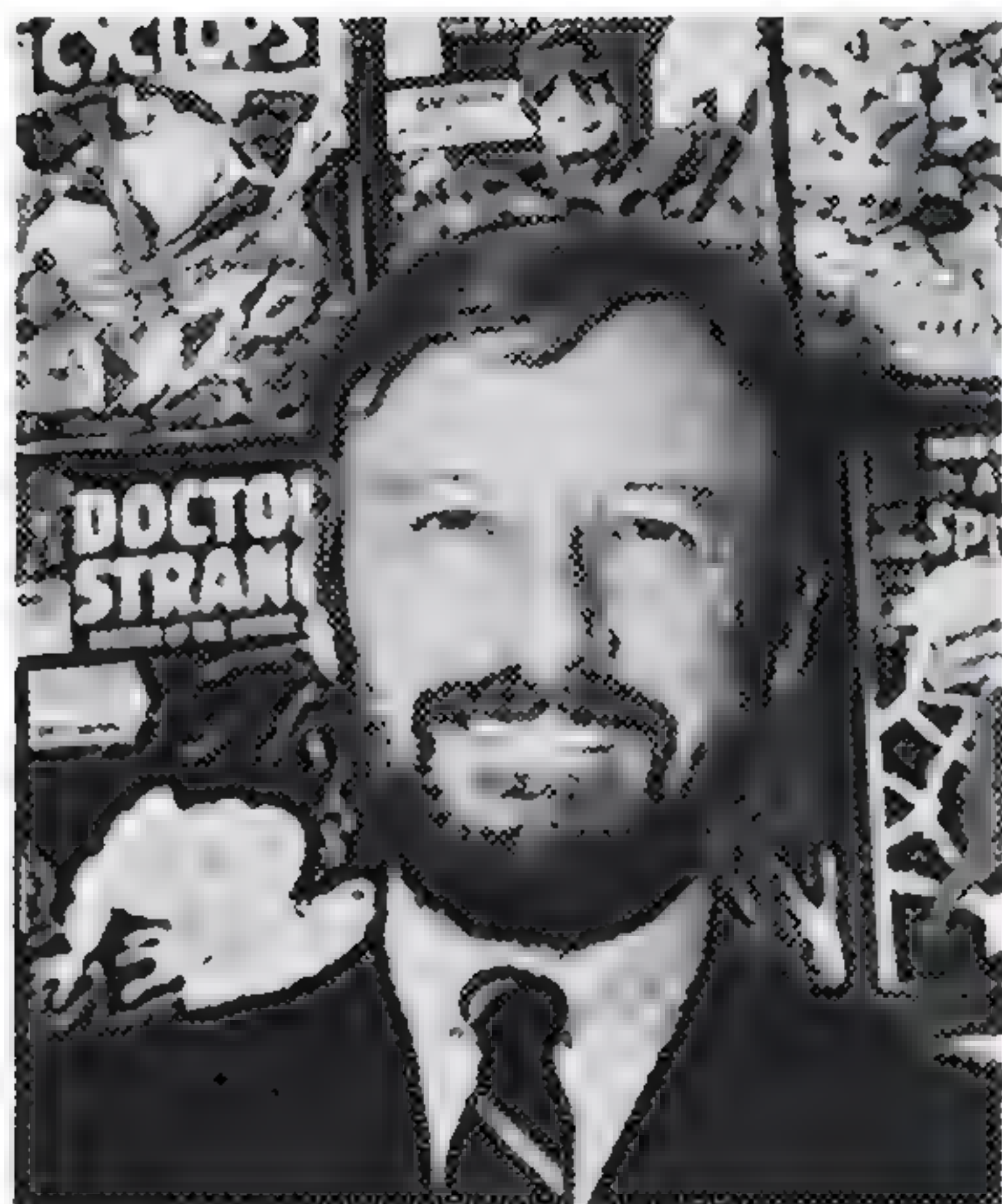






Cover from *The Fantastic Four Annual* #7, November 1969
(reprinting *The Fantastic Four* #1, Annual #2)





STAN LEE
Marvel's Madcap Monarch

BECAUSE YOU DEMANDED IT!

HERE'S A VERITABLE **ROGUES' GALLERY** OF CANDID **PHOTOS**, FEATURING JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY IN THE WHOLE BLAMED BULLPEN! IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING HOW TO FIND YOUR FAVORITE, THEY'RE ALL IN **ALPHABETICAL ORDER!** AND SO, WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, HERE ARE THE MUG SHOTS! CAUTION!... THESE PHOTOS MAY SELF-DESTRUCT!



NEAL ADAMS
X-Men Artist X-Traordinary



DAN ADKINS
Thinking Man's Inker



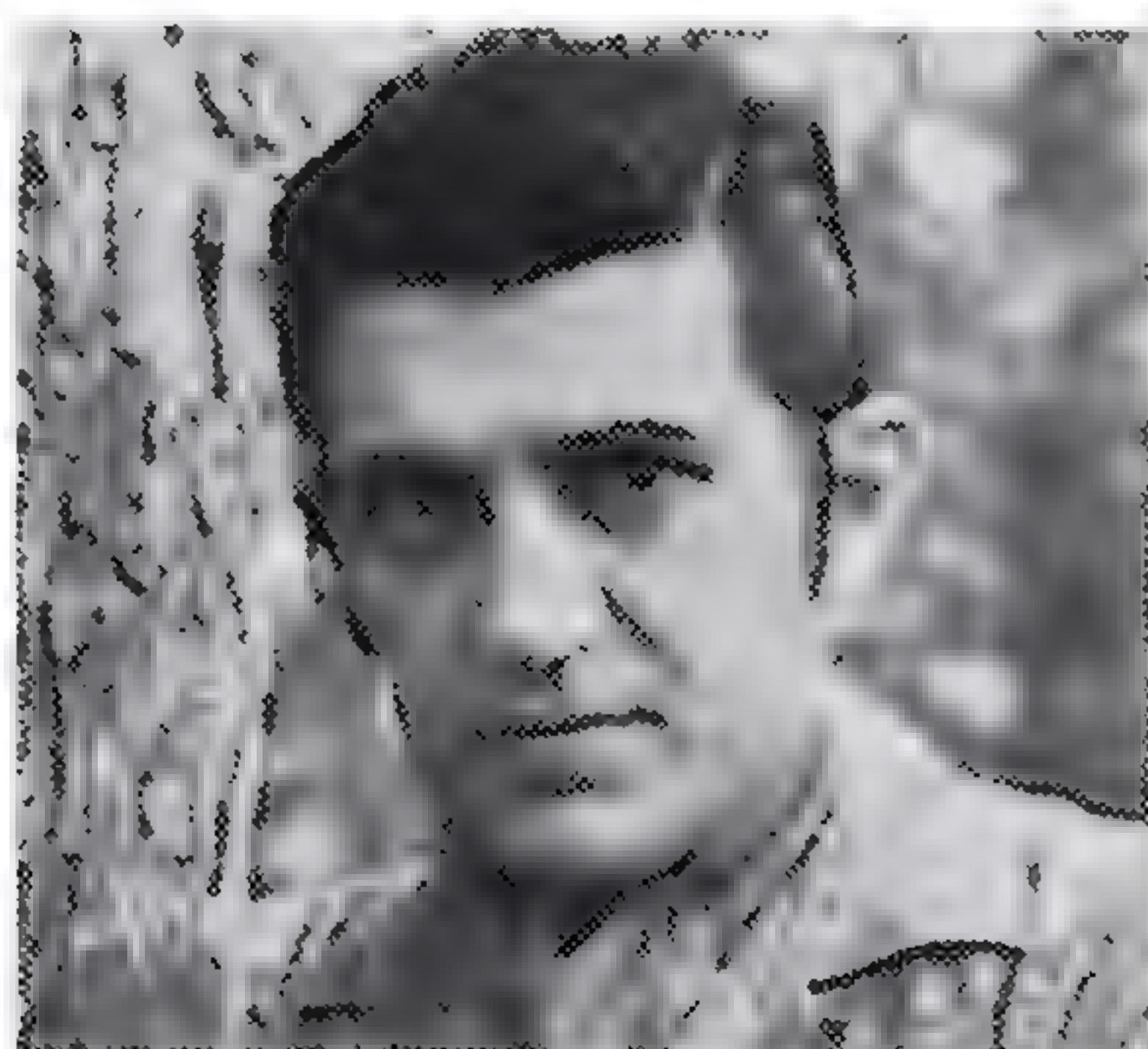
DICK AYERS
Our War-Mag Wizard



SOL BRODSKY
Peerless Production Potentate



JOHN BUSCEMA
Surfer-artist Supreme



SAL BUSCEMA
Honorary Avenger



SHARON COHEN
Our Paint-pot Princess



GENE COLAN
Triple-Threat Terror



JOHNNY CRAIG
Pennsylvania Pen-and-Inker



BILL EVERETT
Our Golden-Age Gremlin



GARY FRIEDRICH
Sgt. Fury's Good Right Eye



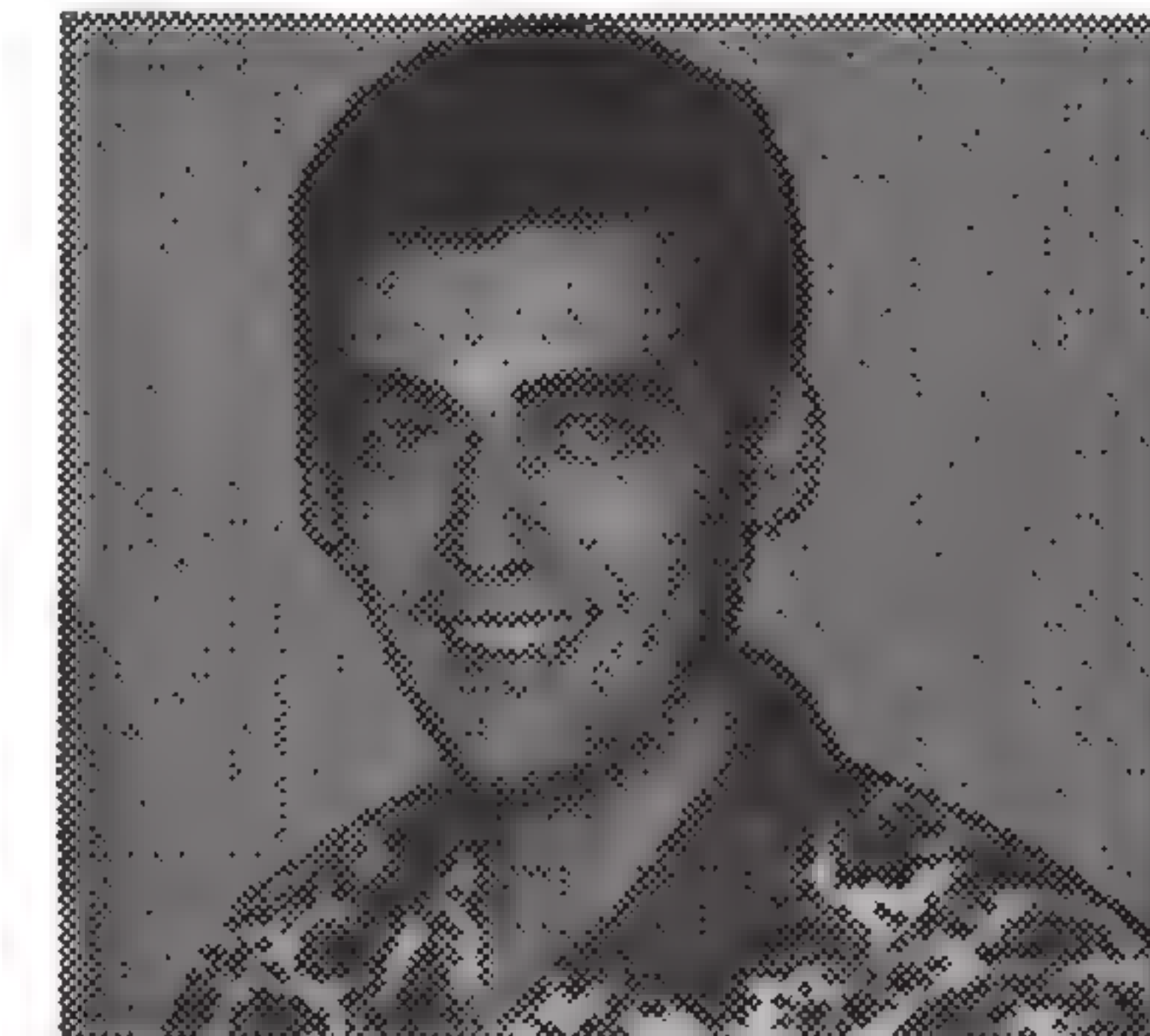
STAN G.
Millie the Model's Agent



LARRY LIEBER
The Rawhide Kid Lives



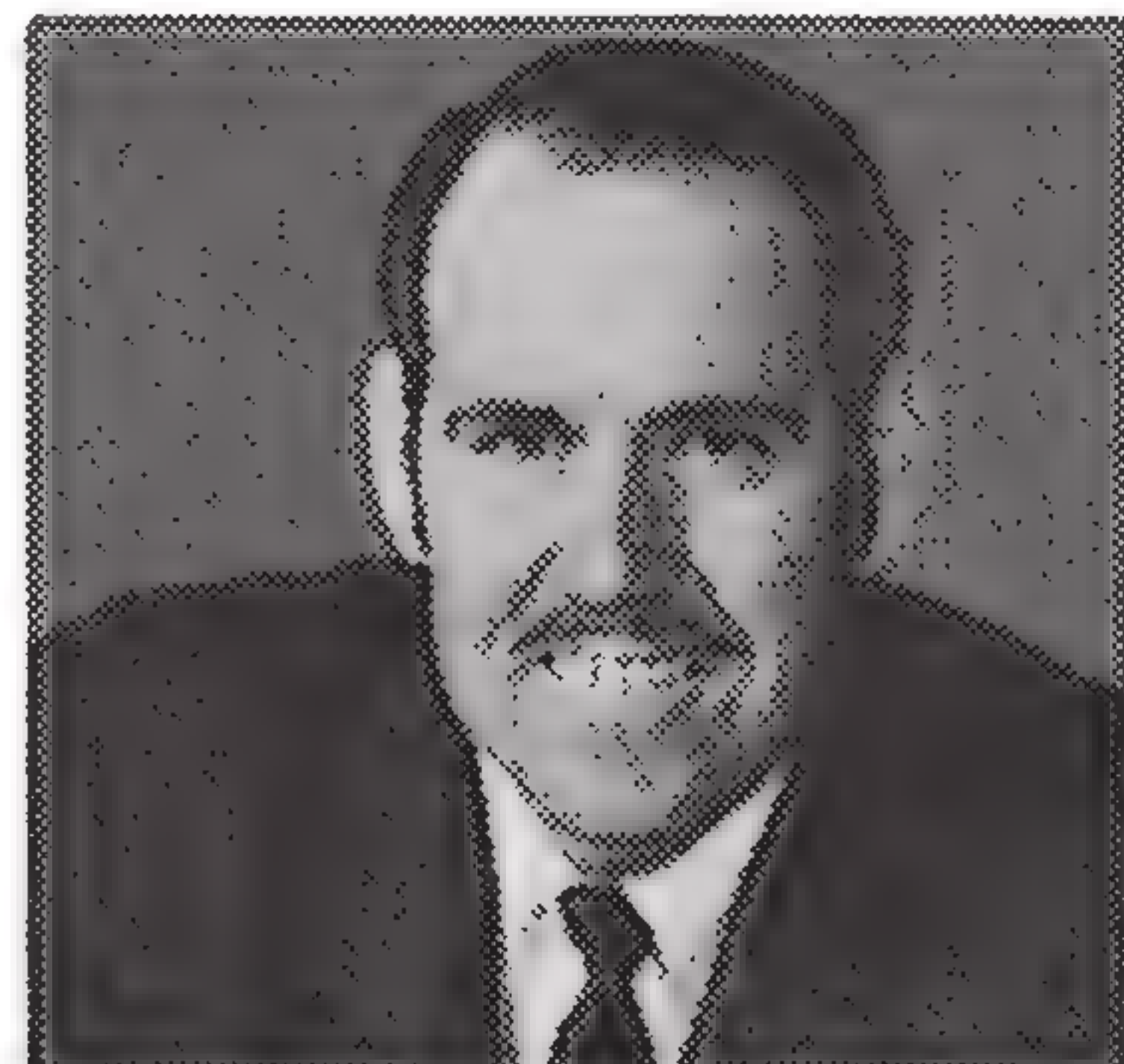
TONY MORTELLARO
Prince of Paste-ups



TOM PALMER
Inker Incredible



ARCHIE GOODWIN
Titan of the Typewriter



SAM GRAINGER
Pasha of the India Inks



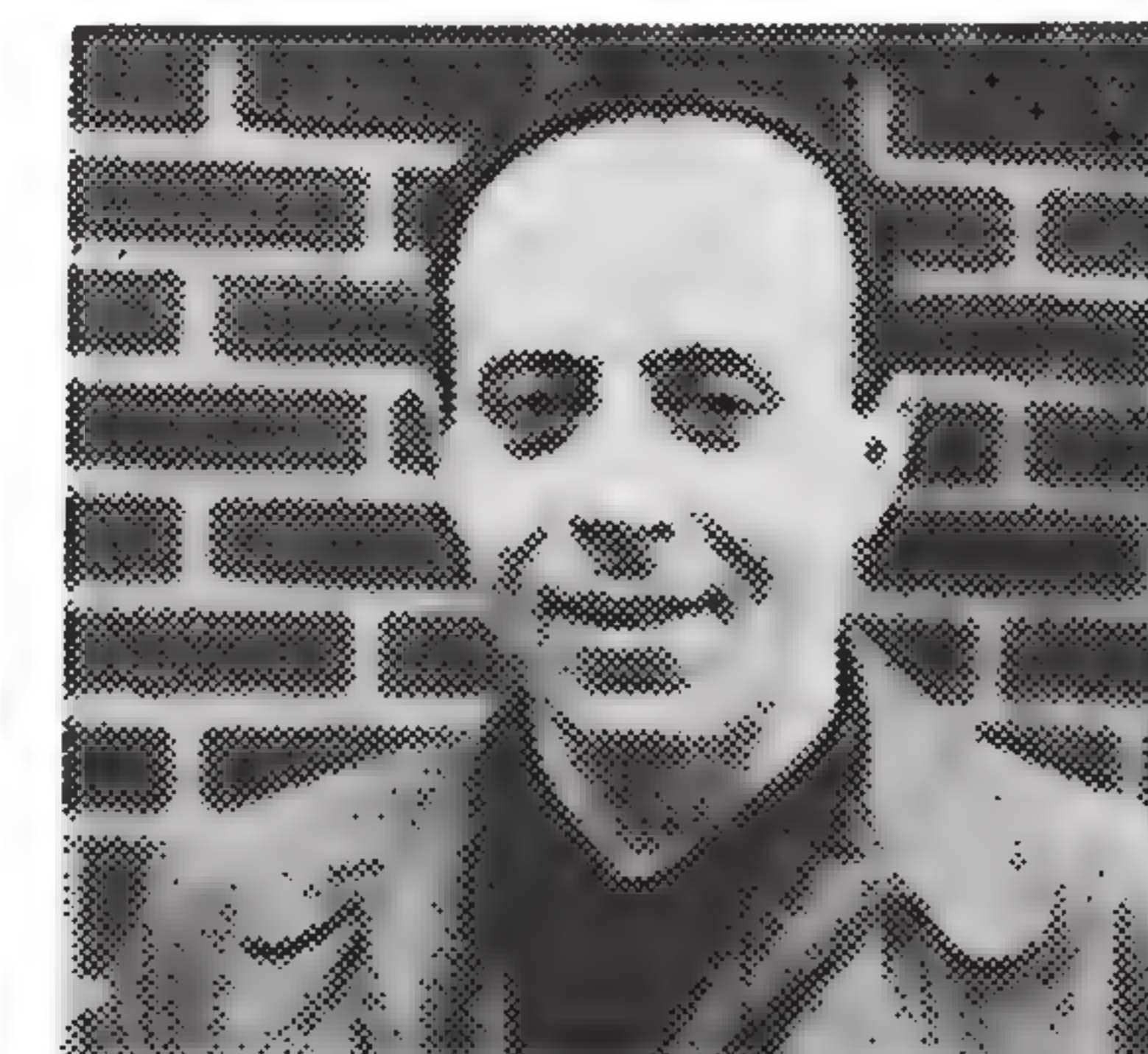
DON HECK
Pulse-Pounding Penciller



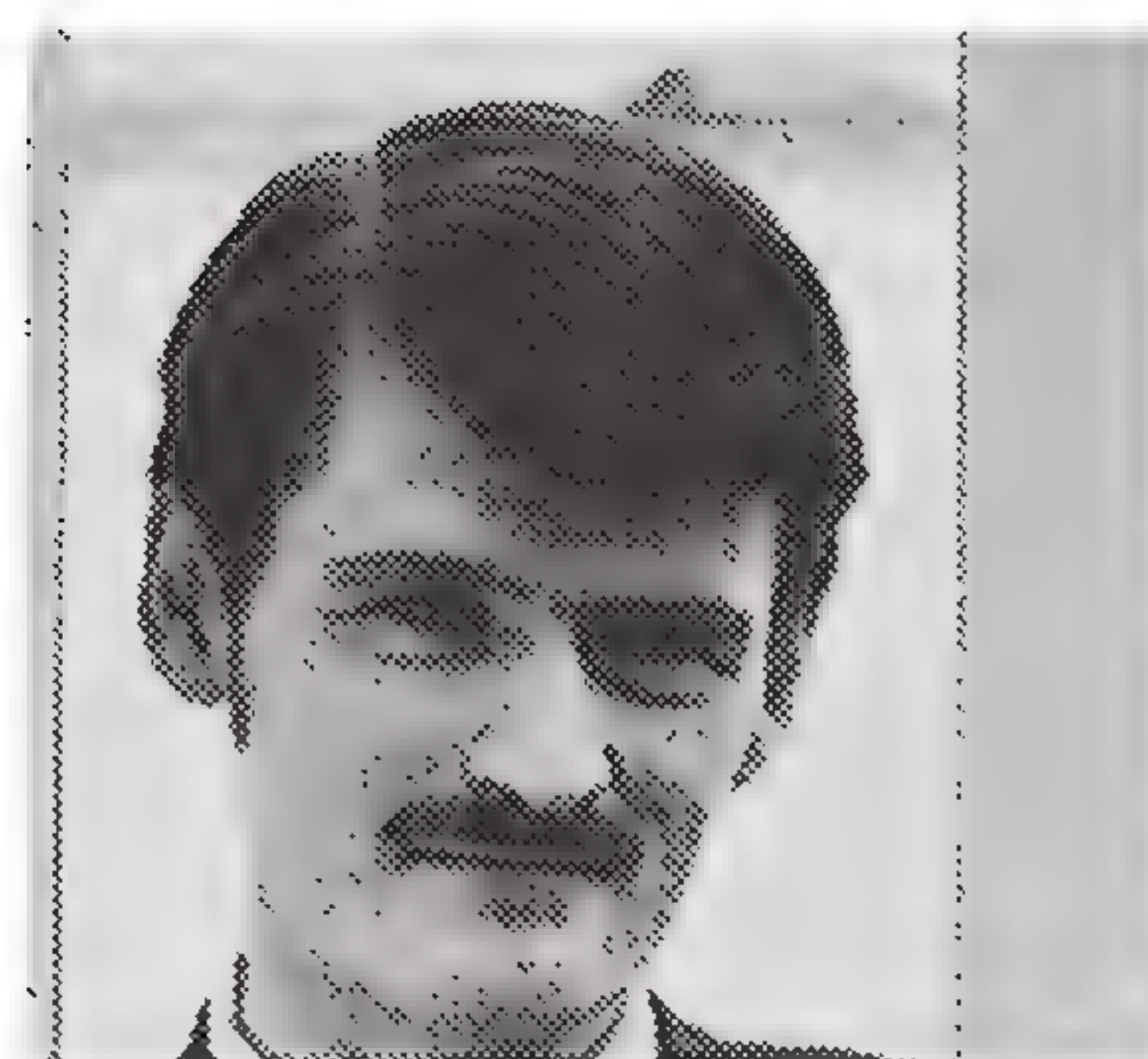
PAUL REINMAN
Cavortin' Colorist



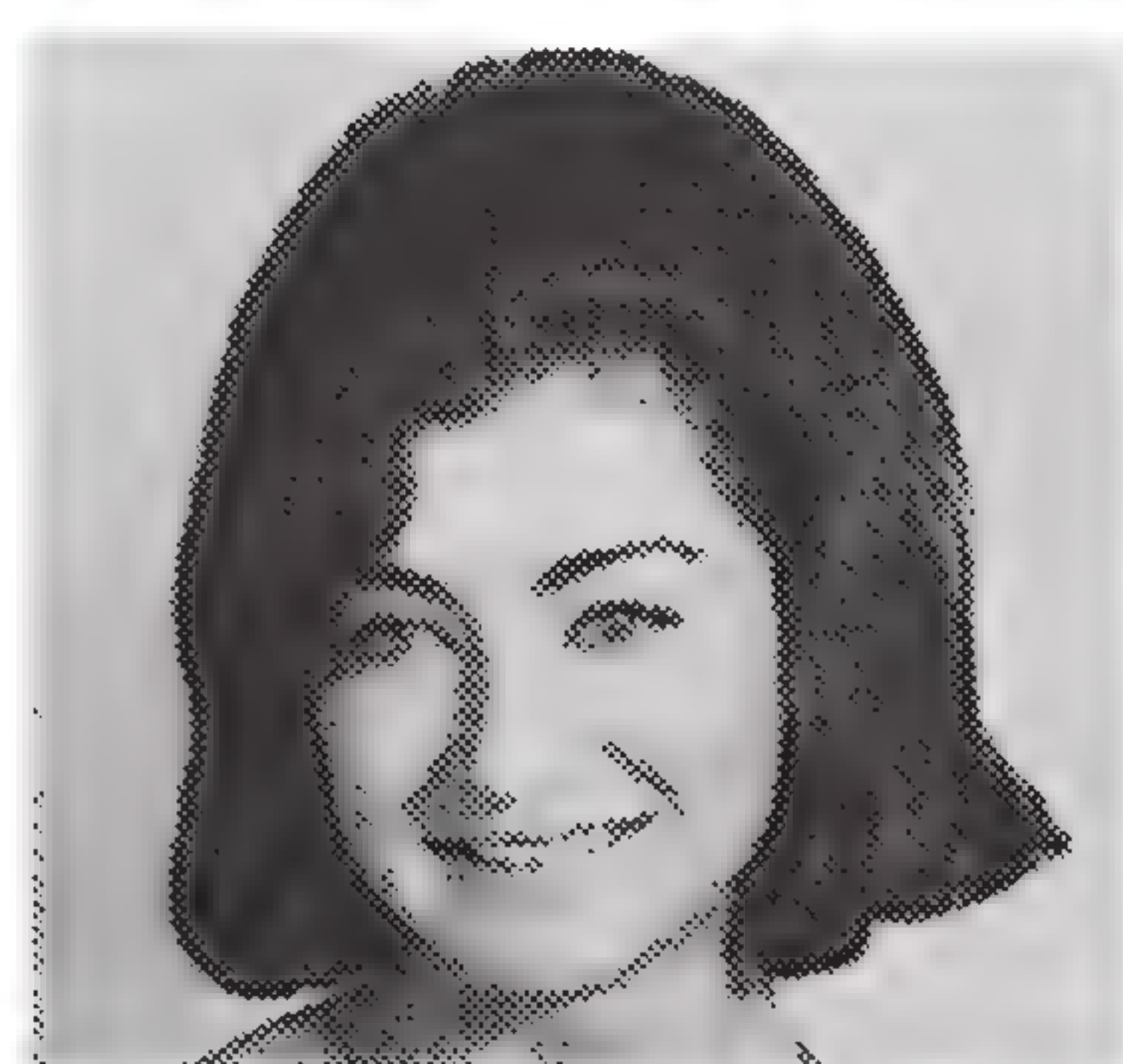
JOHN ROMITA
Our own Web-Spinning Wonder



SAM ROSEN
Lord of Lettering



AL HEWETSON
He took these pics



JEAN SIMEK IZZO
Second-Generation Letterer



GIL KANE
As Rick Jones says—Fantastic



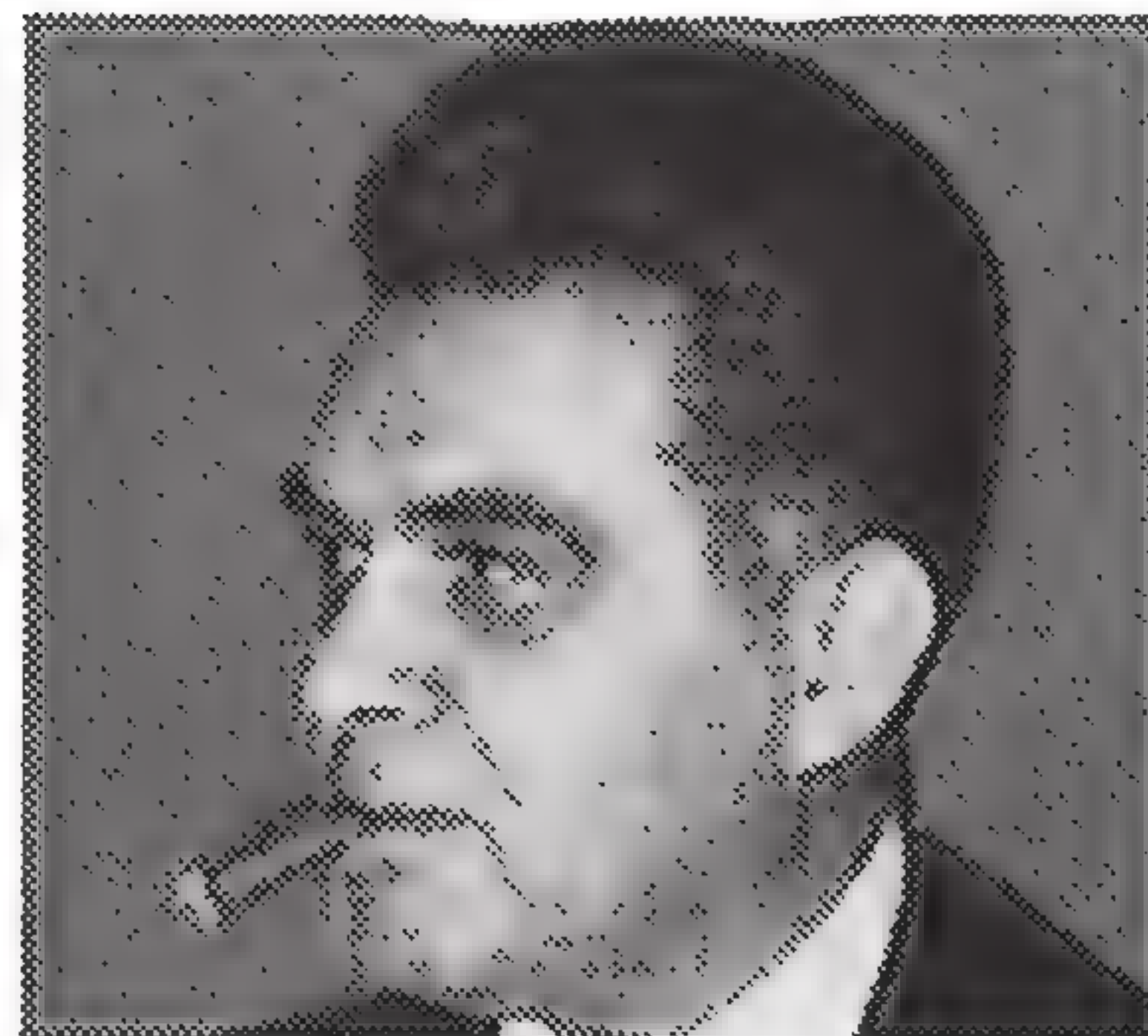
STU SCHWARTZBERG
Make way for Stat-Man



JOHN SEVERIN
Invincible Inker



MARIE SEVERIN
Our Princess of Pencilling



JACK "KING" KIRBY
The Master. 'Nuff said



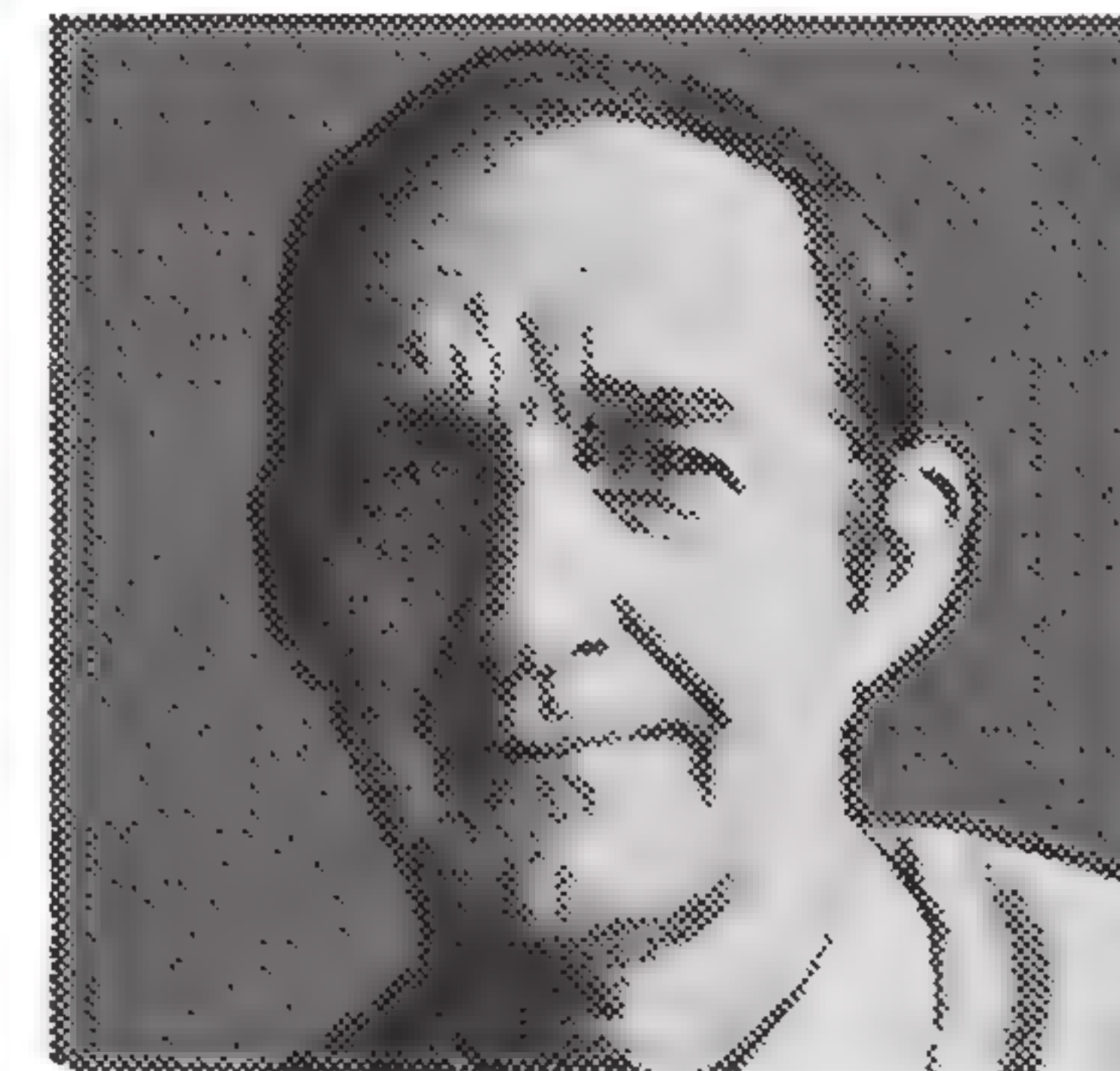
MORRIE KURAMOTO
Staff letterer and litterer



SUZAN LANE
Our Groovy Gal Friday



SYD SHORES
Eagle of the Inkwell



ARTIE SIMEK
Most lovable of Letterers



JOE SINNOTT
Prince of Pen and Ink



JIM STERANKO
Caliph of Creativity



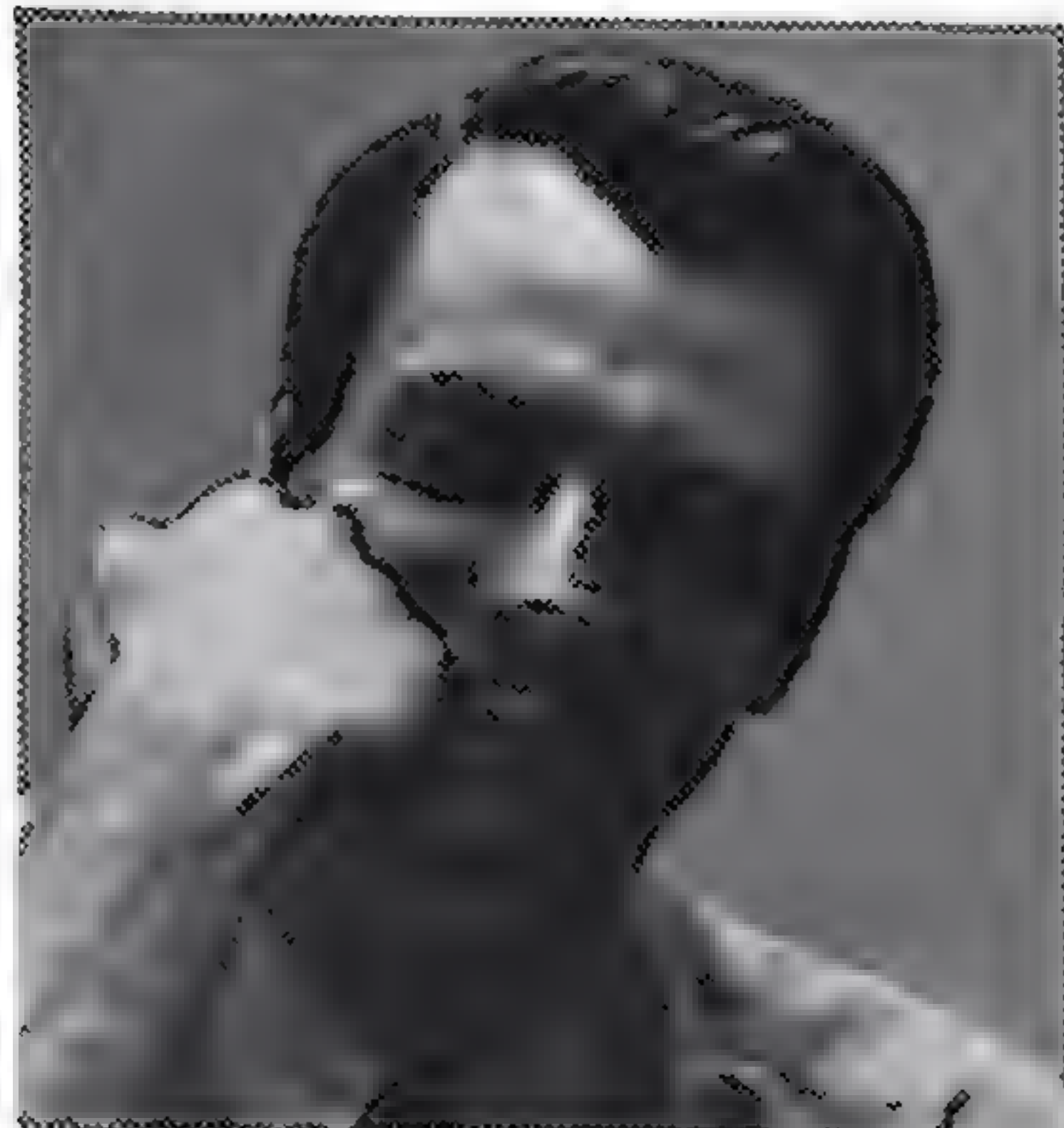
JOHN TARTAGLIONE
Indescribable Inker



JEAN THOMAS
Adorable Assistant



ROY THOMAS
Stan's Good Left Arm



HERB TRIMPE
Our Green-skinned Guru



GEORGE TUSKA
Shellhead's Guiding Light



JOHN VERPOORTEN
Crown Prince of Production



From left to right: Stan, Marie, John R.,
and Unidentified Friend.

THAT'S ENOUGH EYESTRAIN FOR *NOW*, BELIEVER. BY THE WAY, IF WE ACCIDENTALLY *MISSED* ANYBODY BECAUSE THEY FORGOT TO SEND IN A PIC, OR BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T DROP BY THE OFFICE IN TIME FOR US TO SNAP 'EM, WE'LL TRY TO MAKE UP FOR IT *NEXT* GO-ROUND! WHO KNOWS...*NEXT* TIME, WE MAY EVEN CAPTURE *HONEST IRV*! (HOLLYWOOD TALENT SCOUTS, TAKE NOTE... THE BULLPEN BELONGS TO *US*! NONE ARE AVAILABLE FOR HORROR MOVIES...UNTIL THEY ASK FOR A RAISE!)

The Fantastic Four #89, page 11 pencils
by Jack Kirby

KEEP TALKING WISE--GUY-- I
LIKE TO HEAR YOU CROW

REED! IS THERE
NO WAY WE CAN
FIGHT HIM?

WITH ALL OUR
POWERS...ALL
OUR SKILLS...
HOW CAN ONE
LONE MADMAN
REDUCE US TO
SUCH ABJECT
HELPLESS-
NESS?

EASY,
HONEY..
WE'RE
NOT
LICKED
YET! WE'VE
GOT TO KEEP
HIM TALKING
... PLAY ON HIS
VANITY!

BEN...LUNGE
FORWARD...AS
IF YOU SEE HIM!

IF HE THINKS WE'RE
TAKIN' THIS SITTING
DOWN, HE BETTER
UNTHINK IT!



BEN OMINOUSLY
BEGINNS TO STALK MOLE-MAN
HE'S GOING TO KILL HIM

BACK, YOU
MUSCLEBOUND
MISSHAPEN
BRUTE!

YOUR BESTIAL
STRENGTH
CAN'T HARM ME
NOW!

IT CAN'T?
SO HOWCUM YA
DON'T WANNA
HAND RASSLE
WITH ME?

THAT'S IT,
BEN! HOLD
HIS
ATTENTION,
UNTIL...



IT'S
Clobberin'
Time!



LOOK OUT!
HIS STAFF HAS
A VIBRO-
CHARGE
IN IT!

ARHHH!



I'VE BEEN THE CAUTION OF
YOU DORKS

BUT MOLE'S STAFF IS
CHARGED WITH VIBRO-UI-SHOCK

The Fantastic Four #89, page 12 pencils
by Jack Kirby

BEN IS ROCKED AND TOSSED --
ADMONISHED BY MARY

BUT WAIT-- THERE ARE
ONLY FOUR OF YOU-- WHERE
IS SHE?



I AM IMPRESSED, BEN GRIMM!
THAT CHARGE HAD POWER ENOUGH TO SHATTER A BLOCKHOUSE --- BUT IT MERELY STAGGERED YOU!
WAIT! RICHARDS --- WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHOM ARE YOU SIGNALLING TO?

THAT'S FOR YOU TO FIND OUT, MISTER!



ONE OF YOU IS MISSING! THE INVISIBLE GIRL NOW SEEKS TO PIT HER PUNY POWER AGAINST MY OWN!
AH, OF COURSE! I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED!
RICHARDS, I EXPECTED SOMETHING BETTER OF YOU THAN THAT!

EVEN THOUGH WE CAN'T SEE YOU...

NOW YOU CAN'T SEE ME, EITHER!

BUT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE, MRS. RICHARDS...



I DO NOT HAVE TO SEE YOU! I HAVE MY STAFF --- GUIDED BY MY OWN SPECIAL SENSING ABILITY!

BUT YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND... YOU ARE WEAPON-LESS!

NOT QUITE!

IF I MAKE MYSELF MOMENTARILY VISIBLE...



I CAN NOW HURL UNSEEN FORCE-SPHERES AT THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE!

A CLEVER PLOY, MY DEAR...

A PITY IT WILL SERVE YOU TO NO AVAIL!

OF COURSE -- SHE'S INVISIBLE -- BUT MARY'S GLASSES USE INFRARED -- HE CAN SPOT HER IMAGE

HE ENVIATES -- FORCE-SPHERES

The Fantastic Four #89, page 13 pencils
by Jack Kirby

REED SHOTS IN-- BUT MISSES
MOLEY-- IT TELLS-- GET HIS

SUE ZOOMS IN-- BUT
MOLEY ENRAGED-- IS GONNA
ZAP HER BUT GOOD

I SENSED THAT YOUR
MR. FANTASTIC
WOULD ATTEMPT TO
HURL HIMSELF AT ME
WHILE YOU SERVED
AS A DISTRACTION!

BUT YOU HAVE UNDER-
ESTIMATED BOTH MY
SPEED... AND MY
BATTLE PROWESS!

UNNH!

I... MISSED
HIM!

BUT WE
MUSTN'T
GIVE
UP!

HIS
GLASSES!
WE HAVE TO
GET HIS
GLASSES!

I KNOW HE'S
IN FRONT OF ME
SOMEWHERE!

IF I LEAP
FORWARD...
ARMS OUT-
STRETCHED...
PERHAPS I'LL BE
LUCKY ENOUGH...

ONCE
AGAIN,
SUE
RICHARDS,
YOU HAVE
FOR-
GOTTEN
THE POWER
OF MY
STAFF!

AND, SINCE
YOU CHOOSE
TO FOOLISHLY
ATTACK
ME...

I HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT
TO STOP YOU
...ONCE AND
FOR ALL!

SUE!
HIT THE
GROUND!

I'LL STRETCH
MY ARMS...AND
KEEP SWINGING
UNTIL...

THERE!
I GOT
HIM!

YOU FOOL!
IN SAYING HER
... YOU'VE
DESTROYED
YOURSELF!

ONLY I KNOW
THE EXACT
POSITION TO
PLACE MY
HANDS UPON
THIS STAFF!

THE SHOCK IS SO GREAT
THAT TOUCHING IT ANY
PLACE ELSE CAN BE...
FATAL!

...AS YOU
HAVE JUST
FOUND
OUT!

REED'S HANDS PULL UP STAFF
AS IT FIRES--

SHOCK IS TERRIFIC-- REED
IS JOLTED IN EVERY INCH
OF HIS BODY

The Fantastic Four #89, page 14 pencils
by Jack Kirby

SUE GOES WILD -- SHE GOES
VISIBLE - ATTACKS MOLEY -- GRABS
GLASSES

AT THAT MOMENT, FEARING FOR THE LIFE OF THE
MAN SHE LOVES MOST IN ALL THE WORLD, **SUE
RICHARDS** LUNGES FORTH LIKE AN UNCAGED
TIGRESS... UNTHINKING, UNFEELING, HEEDLESS
OF THE RISK... DESIRING ONLY TO **PUNISH** THE
ONE WHO HAS INJURED HER **HUSBAND**...!

AND, IN HER BLIND **FURY**... THE DES-
PERATE WOMAN'S **FINGERS** FIND
THEIR MARK...!



YOUR
GLASSES!
I HAVE
THEM!

NO!
NO!
YOU MUSTN'T!
YOU CAN'T...!

HURLS THEM AWAY AND
PUMMELS MOLEY



MY EYES
ARE TOO
SENSITIVE!
I NEED
THEIR
PROTEC-
TION!

THEN
REED
WAS
RIGHT!
WE FOUND
YOUR ONE
WEAKNESS!

WITHOUT THEM I
CANNOT... I **DARE**
NOT... FACE THE
PAINFUL **LIGHT**!

I'VE DWELLED
TOO LONG...
IN THE
DARKNESS!

YOU DARE TO
WHIMPER... TO
BEG FOR **MERCY**...
AFTER WHAT YOU'VE
DONE!



IF MY HUSBAND
DIES... BECAUSE
OF YOU...

IT WAS **HIS** FAULT! HE
TRIED TO SEIZE THE
STAFF!

I'M NOT TO
BLAME! I'VE
NEVER BEEN
TO BLAME!
NEVER!
NEVER!



THE **ANGRY** FEMALE -- DEADLIER
THAN THE MALE WHEN
HER BROOD IS THREATENED

MOLEY IS HELPLESS -- HE
IS EXPOSED TO **LIGHT** -- HE IS
NOW **BLIND** HIMSELF

The Fantastic Four #89, page 15 pencils
by Jack Kirby



FOR REED'S MONEY FIGHT OFF
SUE-- HE MUST FIND
STAFF-- HIS ONLY DEFENSE

The Fantastic Four #89, page 16 pencils
by Jack Kirby

BUT THIS TIME MOLEY IS BLIND -- THE YEARS OF
LIFE UNDERGROUND HAVE TAKEN TOLL OF HIS VISION---

REED AND SUE
HAVE **DONE** THEIR
PART!

BUT, WE'RE A
TEAM! WE'VE
ALWAYS BEEN
A TEAM --- AND WE
ALWAYS WILL
BE!

NOBODY BEATS THE
FANTASTIC FOUR... NOT
WHILE **ONE** OF US IS STILL
ALIVE... NOT WHILE **ONE** OF
US CAN STILL FIGHT **ON!**

GIT 'IM,
KID! DO IT FER
OL' **STRETCHO**...
AND YER SISTER
SUZIE!

GET HIM TORCH -- HE'S
HURT REED REAL BAD

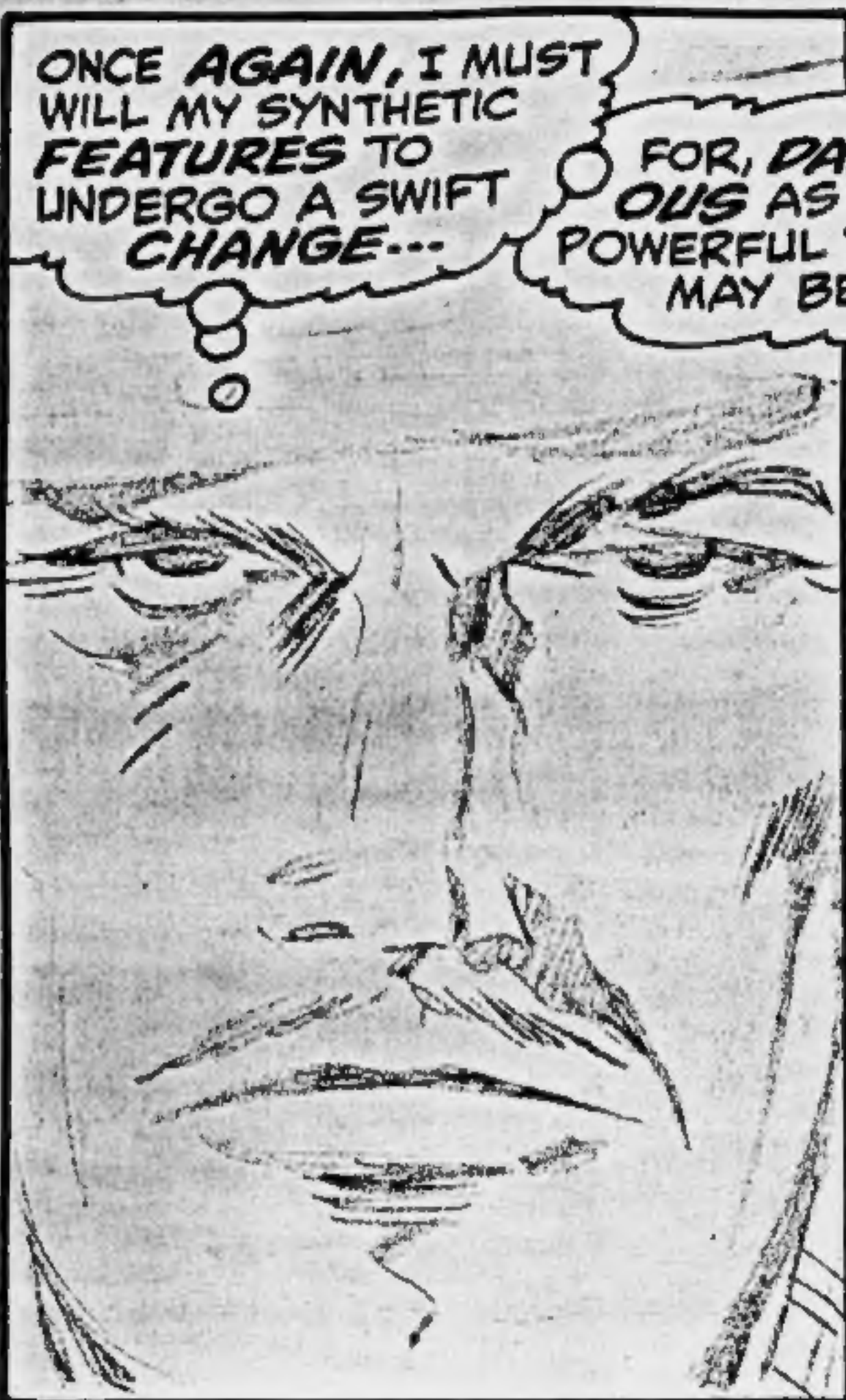
THIS TORCH IS
TORMENTING -- GUY MAKE
MOLEY -- HE'S ALIVE

The Fantastic Four #90, page 17 pencils
by Jack Kirby

THIS WILL BE
TICKLISH-- HE'S DANGEROUS

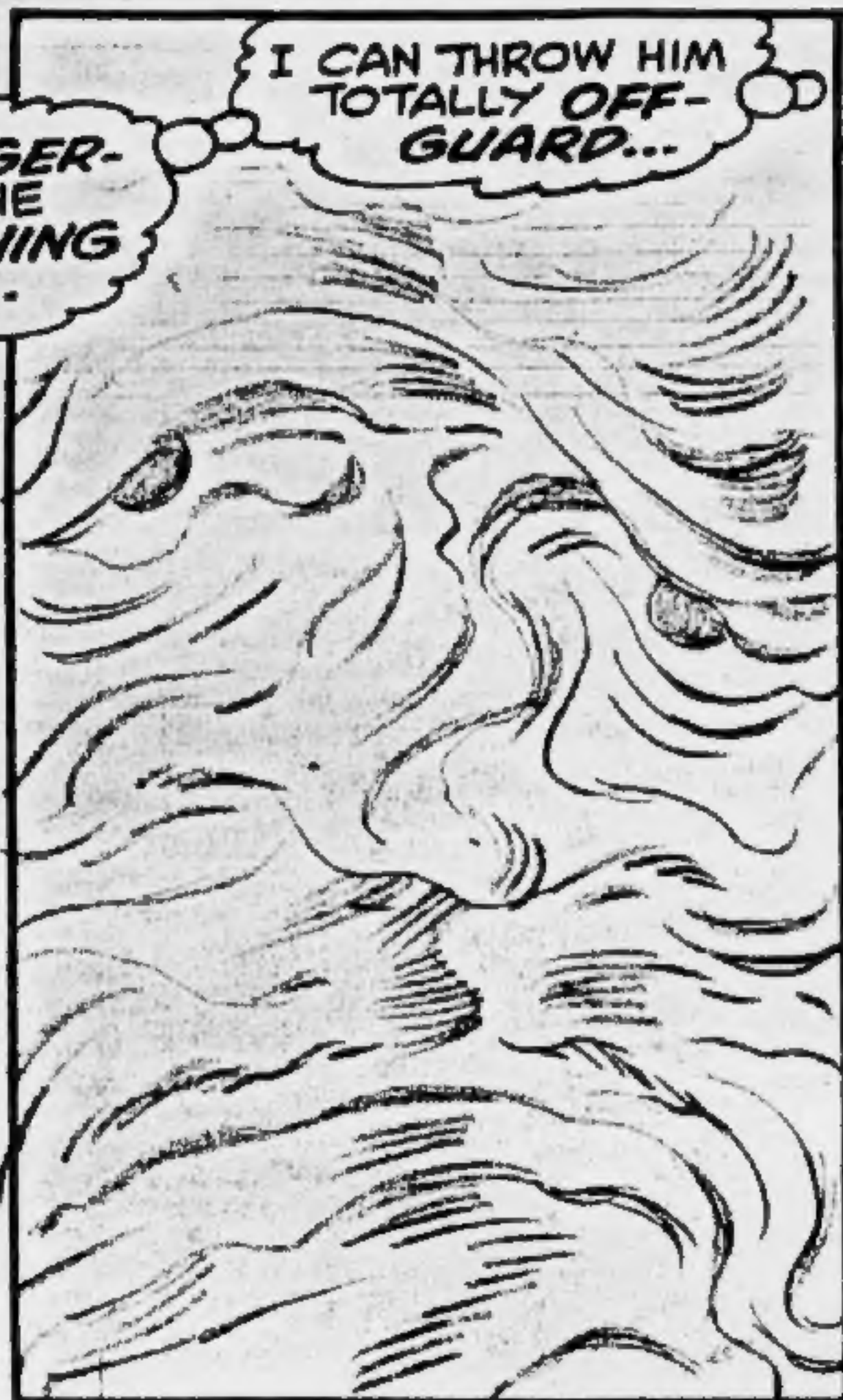
BUT I MUST
FOOL HIM COMPLETELY

AS SOMEONE HE
KNOWS AND TRUSTS

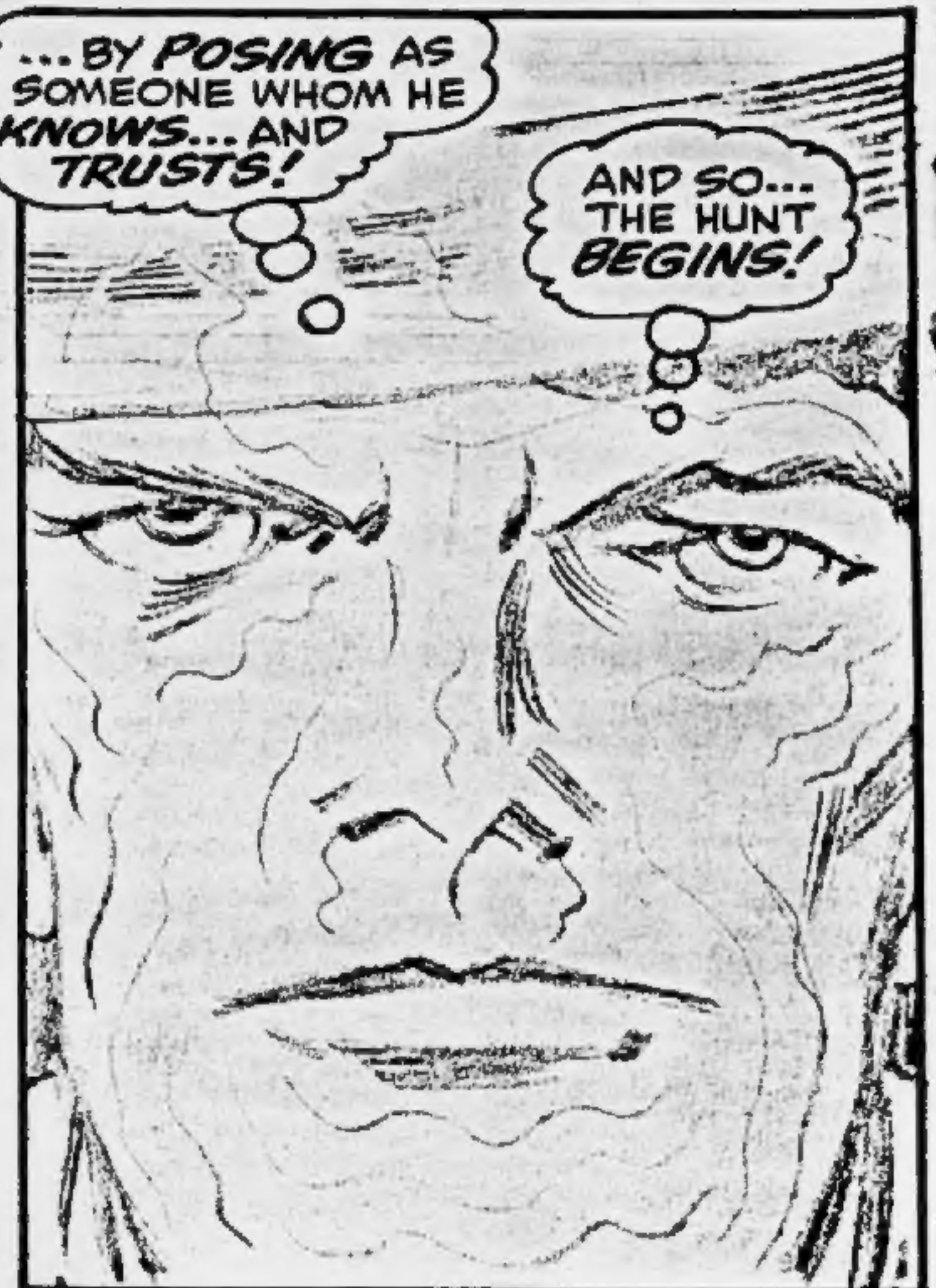


ONCE AGAIN, I MUST
WILL MY SYNTHETIC
FEATURES TO
UNDERGO A SWIFT
CHANGE...

FOR, DANGER-
OUS AS THE
POWERFUL THING
MAY BE...



I CAN THROW HIM
TOTALLY OFF-
GUARD...



...BY POSING AS
SOMEONE WHOM HE
KNOWS... AND
TRUSTS!

AND SO...
THE HUNT
BEGINS!



NUTS! I'M SICK OF EVERY
LOCAL YOKEL STARIN' AT
ME LIKE I WUZ A FREAK!



HEY, TAXI!
PULL OVER,
MAN!

YA GOT A
LIVE ONE
HERE!



FADE OUT,
MAC! I CALLED
'IM FIRST...

HEY! I THOUGHT
YA WUZ AT THE
HOUSE WITH
SUE!

I HAD
TO LEAVE
FAST,
BEN!

SOMETHING
CAME UP!
WE NEED
YOU!

OH
NO YA
DON'T...



I'M ON MY
WAY TO SEE
ALICIA...

AND I AIN'T
STOPPIN' FER
NOTHIN'!

BEN! THIS
IS LIFE OR
DEATH!

IT'S AN
INVASION
FROM
OUTER
SPACE!

DEED! WHAT'RS
YOU DOIN' HERE?

BEN! WHAT A
LUCKY BREAK!
WE NEED YOU

OH-NO-- I'M
GOING TO SEE
ALICIA--

BUT BEN THIS IS
AN INVASION FROM
OUTER SPACE

The Fantastic Four #90 cover original art
by Jack Kirby & Joe Sinnott





THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS PROUDLY PRESENT THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS COMICS AND SUPER HEROES FROM THEIR VERY BEGINNINGS IN A SERIES OF PAINSTAKINGLY RESTORED ARCHIVAL VOLUMES.



COLLECTING *THE FANTASTIC FOUR* #82-93 & ANNUAL #7